

HARROW

— OMNIBUS TWO —

COUNTY™



CULLEN BUNN • TYLER CROOK

CARLA SPEED MCNEIL • JENN MANLEY LEE

HARROW

— OMNIBUS TWO —

COUNTY™



HARROW — OMNIBUS TWO — COUNTY™

ABANDONED, HEDGE MAGIC,
DARK TIMES A'COMING, and DONE COME BACK



Written by
CULLEN BUNN

Art and Lettering
TYLER CROOK

Art for Issues #17 and #18 by
CARLA SPEED McNEIL

Color for Issues #17 and #18 by
JENN MANLEY LEE

Chapter title pages by
TYLER CROOK

Cover by
TYLER CROOK



DARK HORSE BOOKS

President and Publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

Editor
DANIEL CHABON

Assistant Editors
**CHUCK HOWITT, KONNER KNUDSEN,
BRETT ISRAEL, and CARDNER CLARK**

Designer
PATRICK SATTERFIELD

Digital Art Technician
JOSIE CHRISTENSEN

NEIL HANKERSON Executive Vice President • TOM WEDDLE Chief Financial Officer • RANDY STRADLEY Vice President of Publishing • NICK McWHORTER Chief Business Development Officer • DALE LaFOUNTAIN Chief Information Officer • MATT PARKINSON Vice President of Marketing • VANESSA TODD-HOLMES Vice President of Production and Scheduling • MARK BERNARDI Vice President of Book Trade and Digital Sales • KEN LIZZI General Counsel • DAVE MARSHALL Editor in Chief • DAVEY ESTRADA Editorial Director • CHRIS WARNER Senior Books Editor • CARY GRAZZINI Director of Specialty Projects • LIA RIBACCHI Art Director • MATT DRYER Director of Digital Art and Prepress • MICHAEL GOMBOS Senior Director of Licensed Publications • KARI YADRO Director of Custom Programs • KARI TORSON Director of International Licensing • SEAN BRICE Director of Trade Sales

Published by Dark Horse Books
A division of Dark Horse Comics LLC
10956 SE Main Street • Milwaukie, OR 97222

Facebook.com/DarkHorseComics • Twitter.com/DarkHorseComics • DarkHorse.com
Advertising Sales: (503) 905-2315 • To find a comics shop in your area, visit comicshoplocator.com.

HARROW COUNTY™

© 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021 Cullen Bunn and Tyler Crook. Dark Horse Books® and the Dark Horse logo are trademarks of Dark Horse Comics LLC, registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics LLC. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

This volume collects issues #17 through #32 of the Dark Horse Comics series *Harrow County*.

First edition: June 2021
Ebook ISBN 978-1-50671-994-8
Trade paperback ISBN 978-1-50671-992-4

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China



CRUK



SEVENTEEN

HARROW COUNTY

"THERE WUZ A TIME
AN' A PLACE...

"...SOME YEARS BACK AN'
FAR FROM HARROW...

"...YEW WOULDN'TA
RECOGNIZED ME IF'N
YEW SAW ME...





"...WHEN I WUZ BOUND
BY LAWS OTHERN THEM
THAT WE KNOW T'DAY."

REEEEEEEE



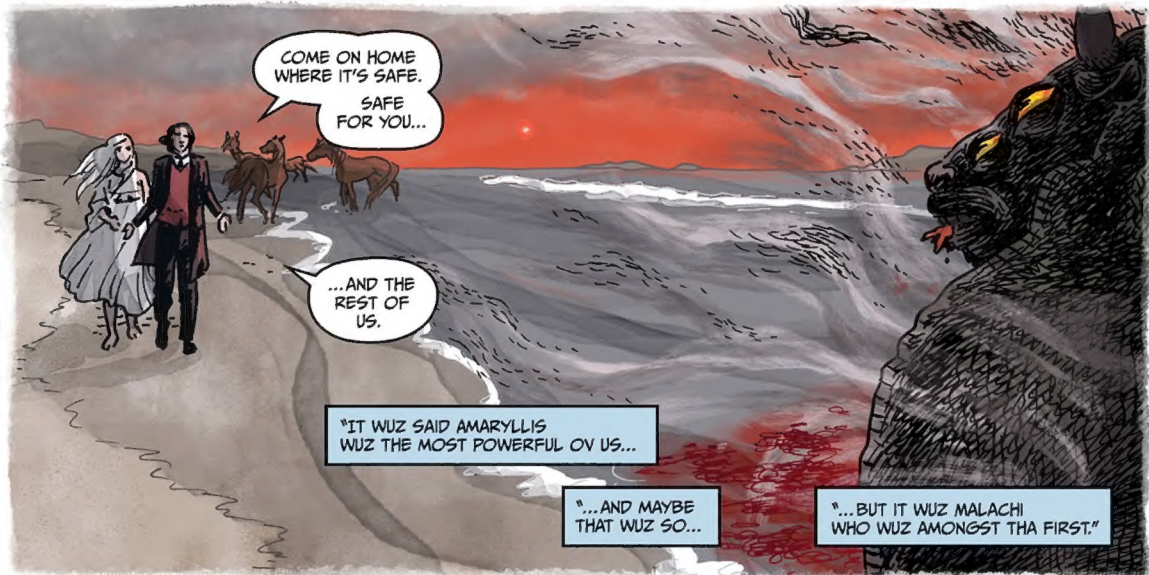
"SO MUCH HAS
CHANGED SINCE
THEN..."

"...SOME OV IT
FER THA BETTER..."



"...AND SOME OV
IT GONE TA RUIN."







IT WUZ MALACHI
WHO MADE THA
LAW.



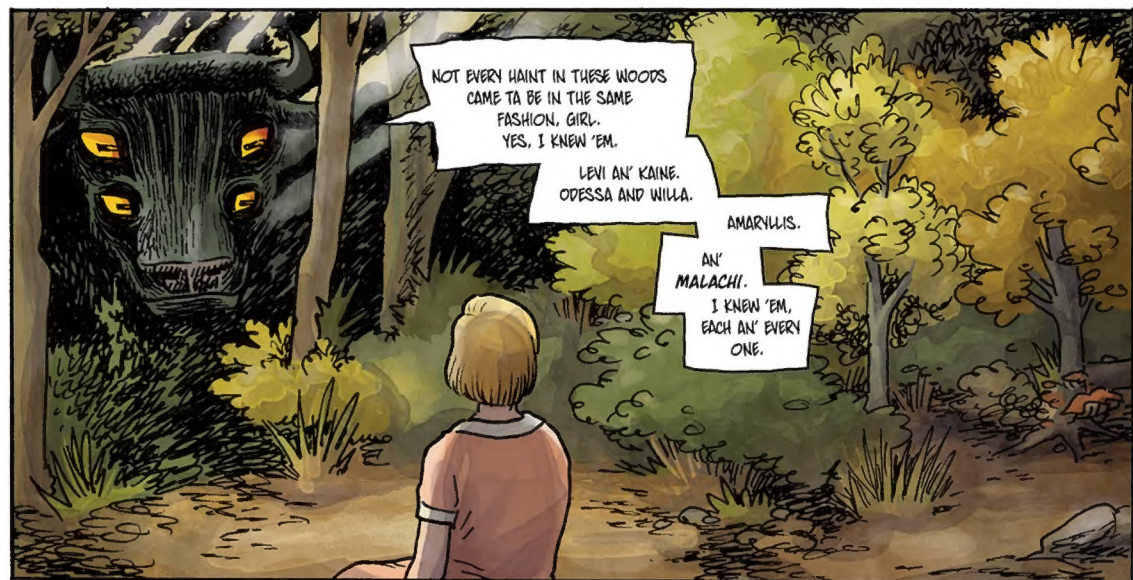
AND IT WUZ
HIM THAT SUFFERED
MOST IN THOSE DAYS.



YOU
KNEW THEM,
THEN.

YOU KNEW
THE FAMILY.

YOU...
WERE ONE OF THEM.



NOT EVERY HAINT IN THESE WOODS
CAME TA BE IN THE SAME
FASHION. GIRL.
YES, I KNEW 'EM.

LEVI AN' KAINE.
ODESSA AND WILLA.

AMARILIS.

AN'
MALACHI.

I KNEW 'EM,
EACH AN' EVERY
ONE.



WHY ARE
YOU TELLING ME
ALL THIS?

WHY
NOW?



I DIDN'T RECKON
YOU WANTED ANYTHING
TO DO WITH ME.



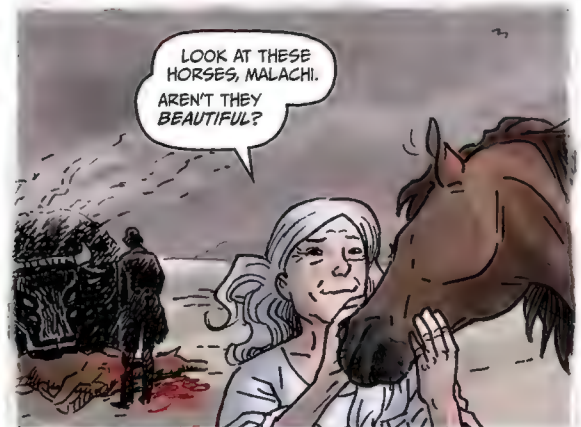
WHAT
CHANGED?

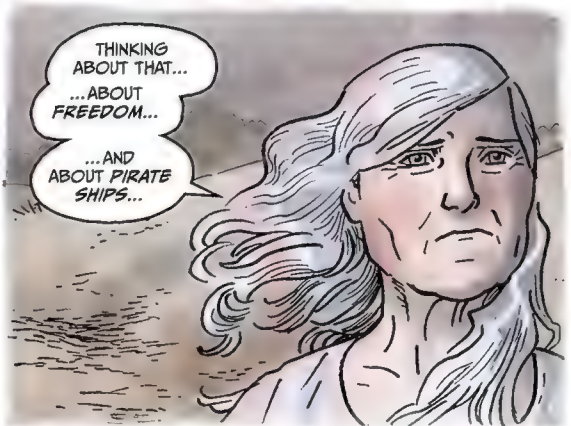


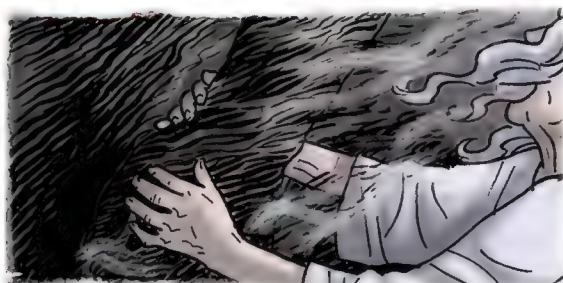
EVERYTHING.



THAT'S
RIGHT.
IT'S ALL
CHANGED.
EVERY
BITTA IT.











...WE'D BE JUST AS BAD AS THE OTHERS.

YOU KNEW HE WOULDN'T COME WITH US.



DIDN'T YOU?



HE'S FORGOT SO MUCH ABOUT WHO HE USED TO BE. FORGOT ABOUT ME.

ABOUT YOU.



BUT...WHEN I SAID I COULD PROTECT HIM...HE REMEMBERED.

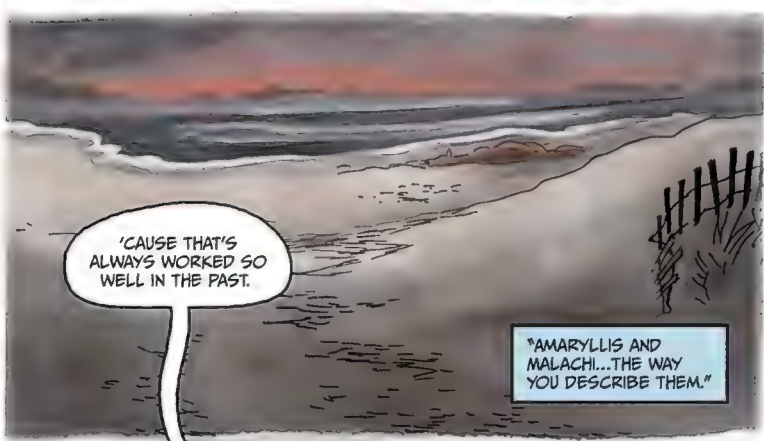


HE REMEMBERED WHAT A LIE SOUNDS LIKE.



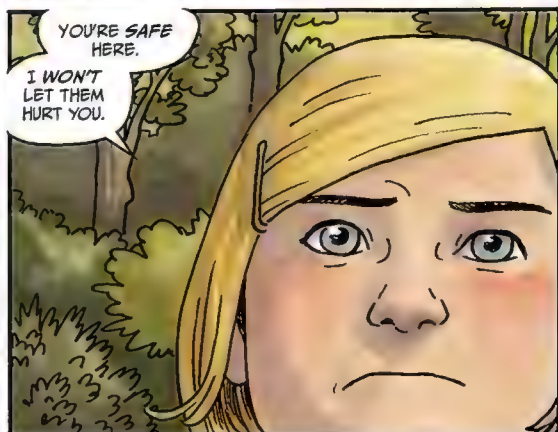
WELL, WHAT NOW?

WE'LL FIND THE REST OF THE FAMILY...
...TRY'N TALK SENSE TO 'EM...



'CAUSE THAT'S ALWAYS WORKED SO WELL IN THE PAST.

AMARYLLIS AND MALACHI...THE WAY YOU DESCRIBE THEM.





HEARD THAT
BEFORE.
AND
BEFORE.
AN' BEFORE
THAT.

BUT I
STOPPED
THEM.
LEVI AND
THE OTHERS.

WHEN
THEY CAME
HERE, WHEN THEY
WANTED TO DESTROY
EVERYTHING.



I SENT
THEM AWAY.



HHHH.



YEW
STARTLED
THEM IS
ALL.
THEY'LL
COME BACK.

THEY'LL FIND
A WAY TO GET
AT YEW.

"THEY ALWAYS DO."

IT'S TOO DAMN COLD FOR THIS.
NOTHIN'S A-BITIN'.



AN' THE PARADE'S STARTIN' SOON.

A-YUH.

MARYBETH'LL BE FIERCE IF I'M LATE FOR--



YOU GOT SOMETHING!
SOMETHIN' BIG!

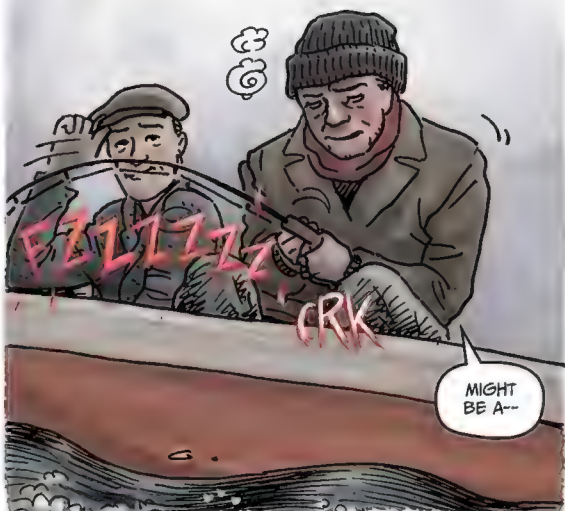
IT'S DAMN STRONG, TOO!

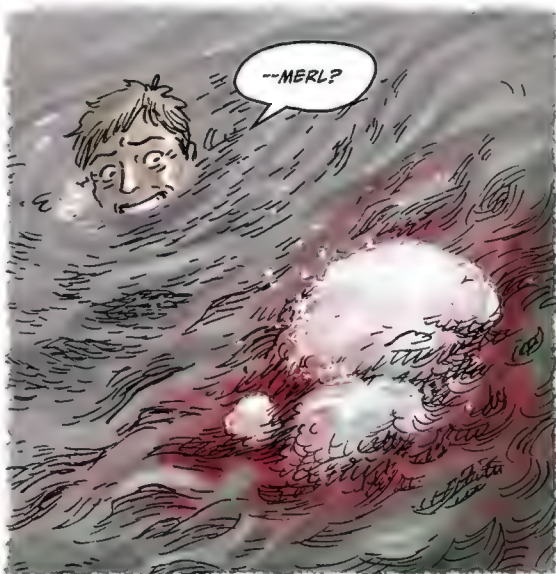
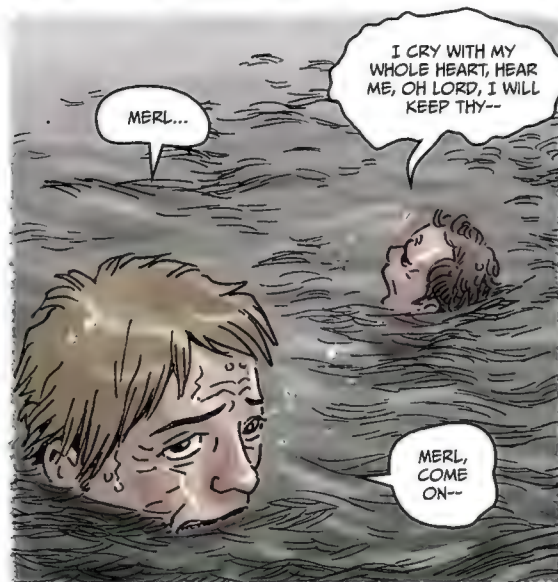
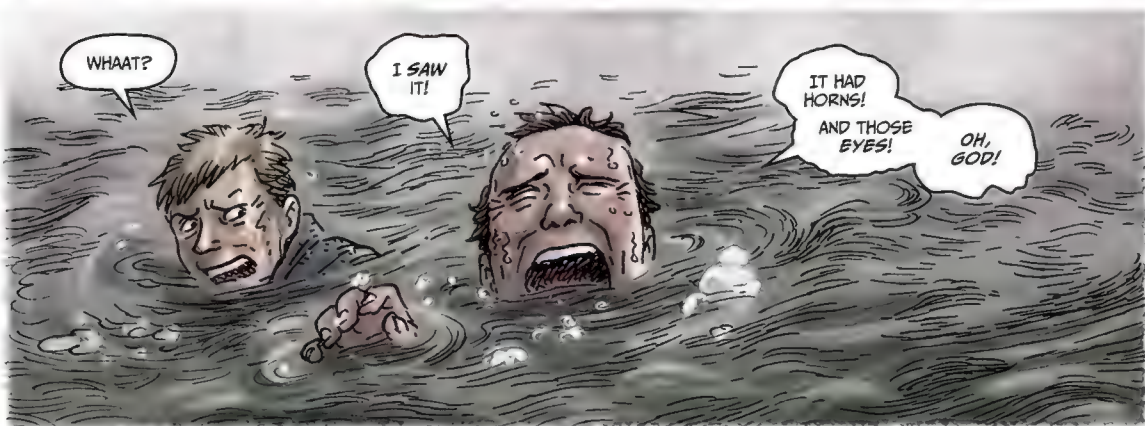


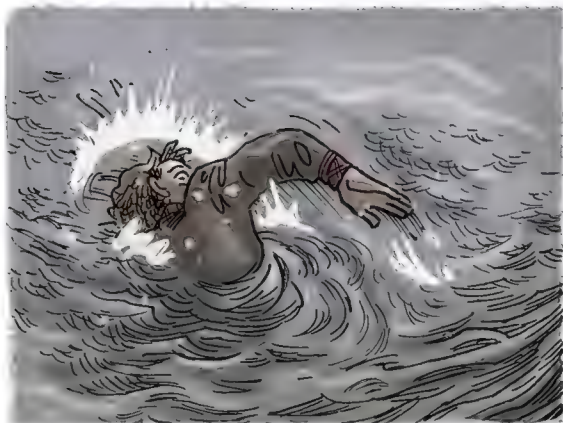
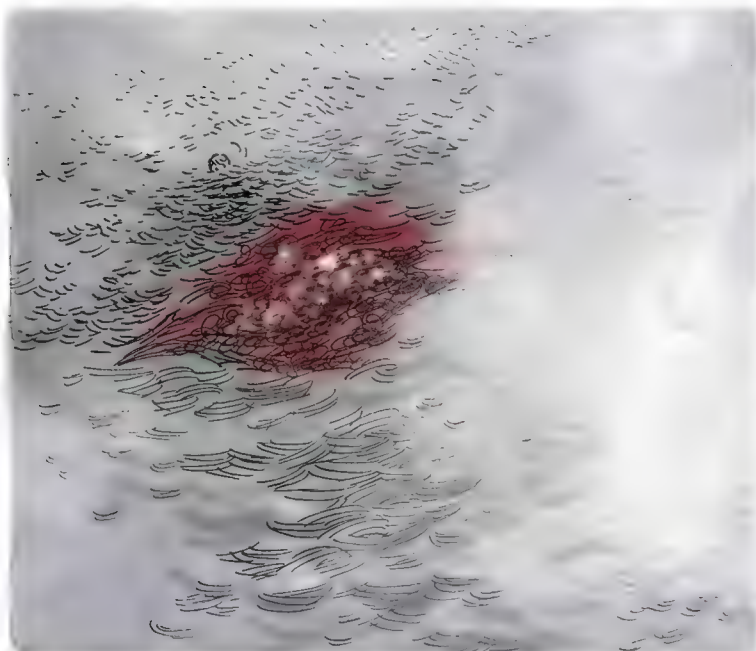
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?

COBIA, MAYBE?

NAW... NOT THIS TIME A'YEAR!







BUT I CAN SEE
HOW ONE SUCH AS
YOURSELF MIGHT GET
A BIT *CONFUSED*.

LONG PIGS
SUCH AS YERSELF SEE
SOMETHIN' A BIT OUT O'
THE ORDINARY...

...Y'ALL START IN
A-CRYIN' AN' A-PRAYIN'
AN' CARRYIN' ON 'FORE
Y'EVEN GIT TO BED
AT NIGHT.

AIN'T NO *SHAME* IN IT.
IT'S JUST YER NATURE, HAS
BEEN SINCE THE FIRST SUNUP.
IT'S WHAT YOU WERE
MADE FOR.

BUT MY KIND,
SEE, CAN GET *AWFUL*
TEMPTED BY THAT KIND
O' NOISY CARRYIN' ON.

AIN'T YOUR
FAULT BUT IT AIN'T
GOOD FOR US.

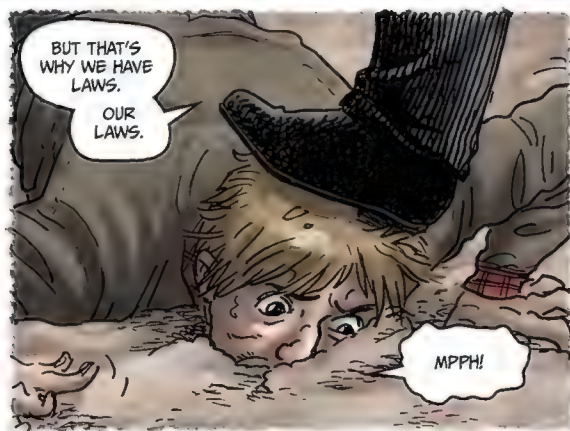


BUT THAT'S
WHY WE HAVE
LAWS.
OUR
LAWS.

MPPH!

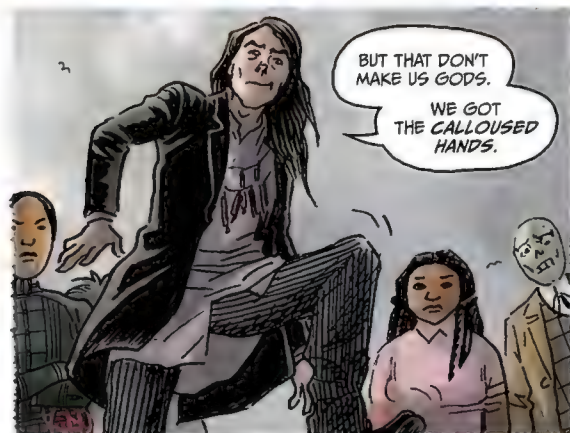
WE MIGHT BE AS CLOSE
TO THE ALMIGHTY AS YER
LIKELY TO FIND.

MMMMPH!



BUT THAT DON'T
MAKE US GODS.
WE GOT
THE *CALLOUSED*
HANDS.

SOMETIMES, WE
GOT TO GET THEM
HANDS *DIRTY*.



"IF'N YA KNOW ANY FOLKS FROM THA OUTER BANKS, YA MIGHT KNOW THAT COME JANUARY THEY GOT A THING THEY CALLED OL' CHRISTMAS."

"THEY DO A LOT O' STRANGE THINGS THEN."

"MAKIN' MEALS FOR HAINTS..."

"LEAVE THE ASHES IN THE HEARTH..."

HAS ANYONE SEEN MY OLD MAN?
MERL WAS OUT FISHING BUT HE...

"WEARIN' MASKS AN' MAKIN' A RUCKUS..."

HAS'NT ANYONE SEEN HIM?

"CHILDREN PASS OUT HOMEMADE APPLE CANDY TO STRANGERS..."

OH, THANK YOU KINDLY.

MM.

"...NEVER KNOWIN' HOW STRANGE THEY MIGHT BE."



"THEY PLAYED DRUMS AN' PIPES FOR OL' BUCK.

"OL' BUCK WAS THE LOCAL CELEBRITY.

"ROAMED THE WOODS THEREABOUTS IN THE ANCIENT TIMES...

"PLANTED A TWISTED CALF IN EVERY COW IN BUXTON WOODS.



"HE WAS A TERROR TO THE LOCAL FARMERS 'TIL HE WAS KILT.

"BUT STILL THEY'D CALL HIM BACK..."

FALSE IDOLS.

THE OTHERS WILL FEAR THIS.

"...TO COME DANCE AN' RAISE A RUMPUS..."

"FOLKS CHEER AN' TACKLE HIM.

"IN THIS WAY THEY CHASE AWAY FOUL PRESENCES."

SNRRRTT







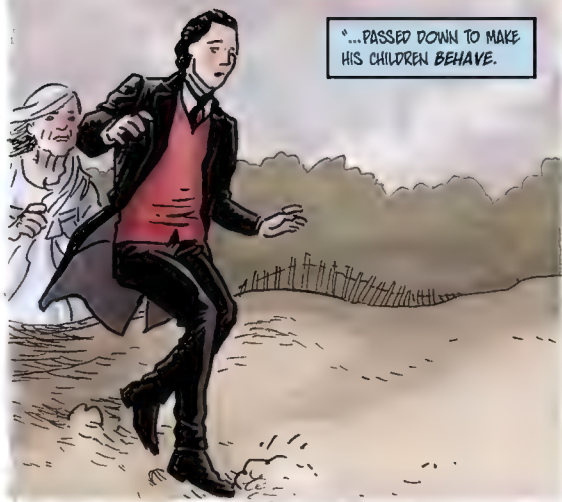
*MALACHI WAS AMONGST THA FIRST...

*...AN' HE HAD CREATED THE LAWS.



*THE LAWS...

*...PASSED DOWN TO MAKE HIS CHILDREN BEHAVE.



*HE WUZ AFRAID OF THEM.

*AFRAID WHUT MIGHT BECOME OF THEM WHEN HE WUZ GONE AND COULDN'T LOOK AFTER THEM.



*BUT THA LAW CHAFED...



*...MADE THEM OTHERS ANGRY.

*AN' LEVI...HE FOUND A WAY TA USE IT...

*...TA PUNISH MALACHI WITH THA VERY SCRIPTURES HE HAD CRAFTED.



*EVEN THEN, THOUGH...

*...LEVI MADE A MISTAKE...



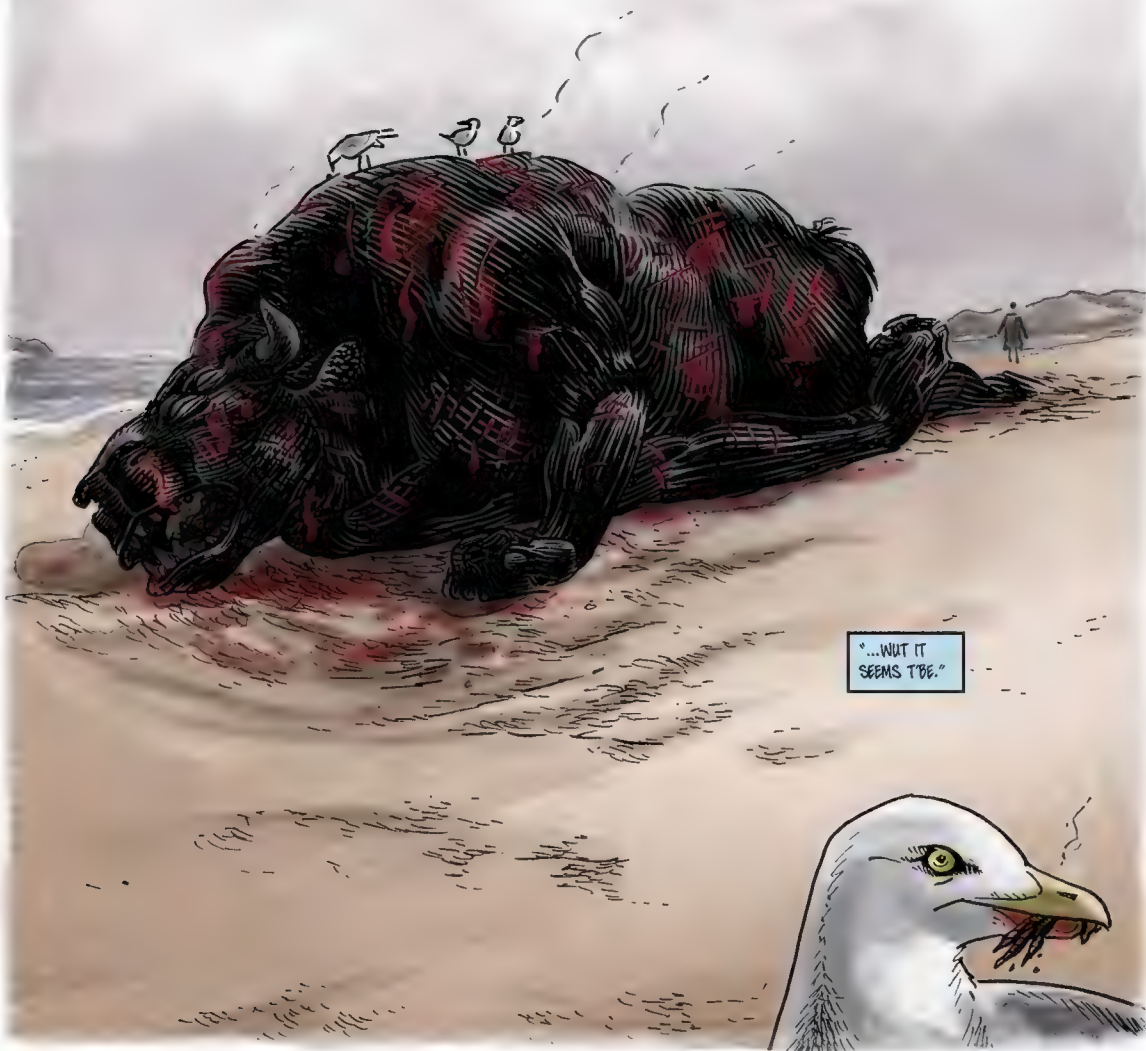
*...HE FERGOT SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.

"WHEN IT COMES
TO OUR KIND..."

"...AIN'T NUTHIN'..."

"...NOT LIFE AN'
SURELY NOT DEATH..."

"...WUT IT
SEEMS T'BE."





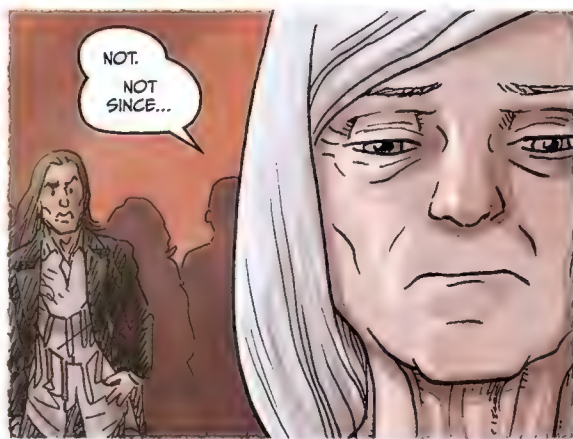
EIGHTEEN



"THA MEETIN' LODGE
ONLY EVER APPEARED
DURING TIMES A'STRIFE.

"NO ONE NEEDED
TA CALL IT UP.

"THE LODGE SEEMED TA KNOW
WHEN A CONCLAVE WUZ NEEDED.





WE DID NOTHING WRONG!

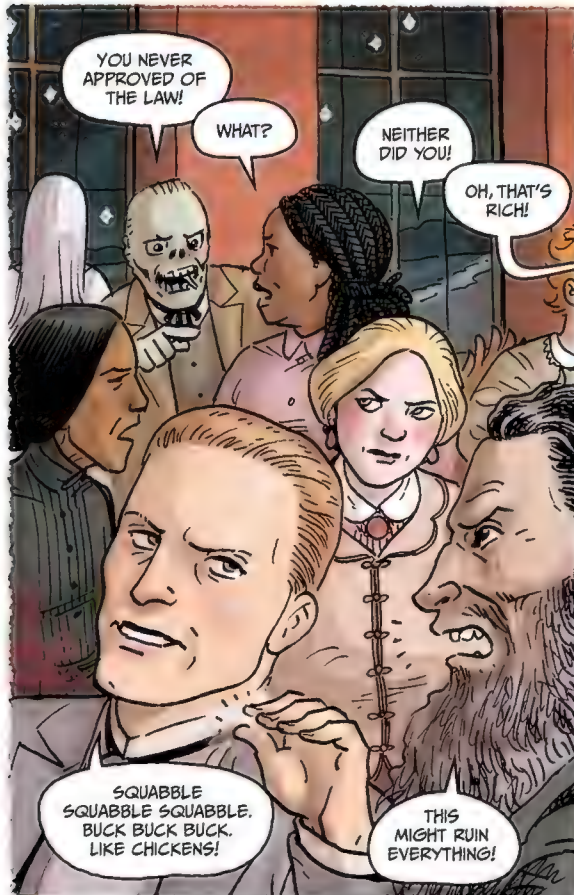
WE WERE WITHIN OUR RIGHTS!

WE UPHELD THE LAW! WE DIDN'T BREAK IT!



THESE WERE MALACHI'S EDICTS, REMEMBER.

HOW CAN HE EXPECT US TO OBEY WHEN HE WILL NOT?



YOU NEVER APPROVED OF THE LAW!

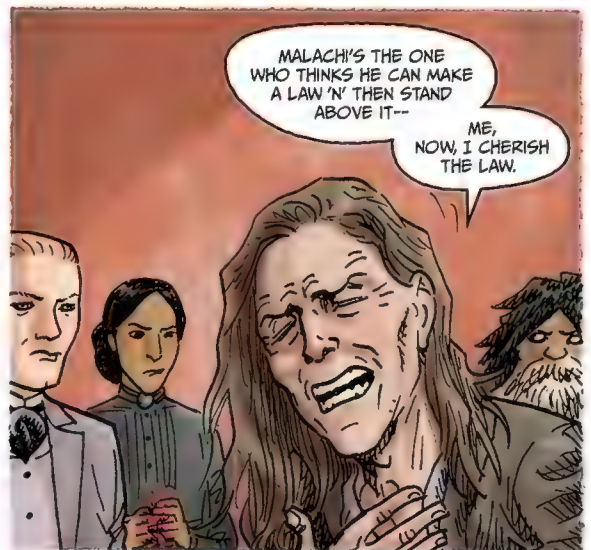
WHAT?

NEITHER DID YOU!

OH, THAT'S RICH!

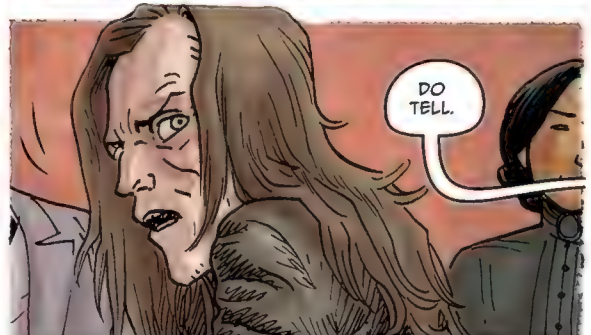
SQUABBLE SQUABBLE SQUABBLE. BUCK BUCK BUCK. LIKE CHICKENS!

THIS MIGHT RUIN EVERYTHING!

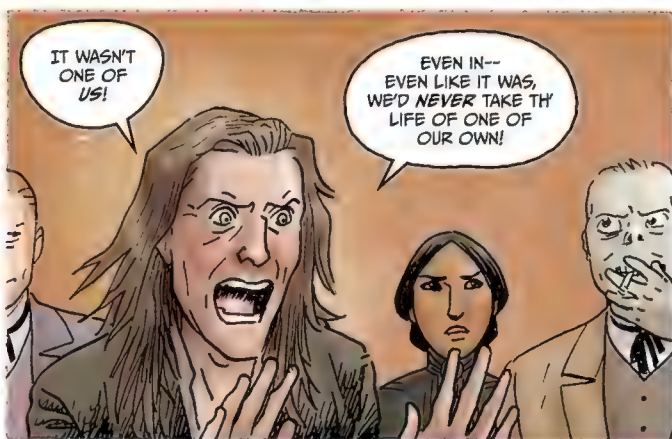


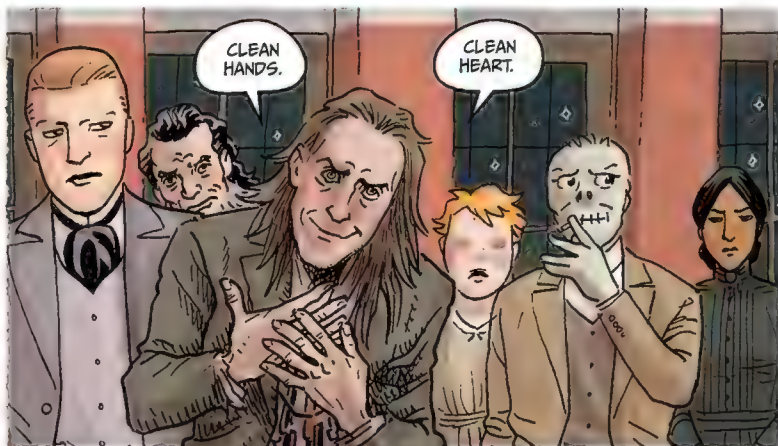
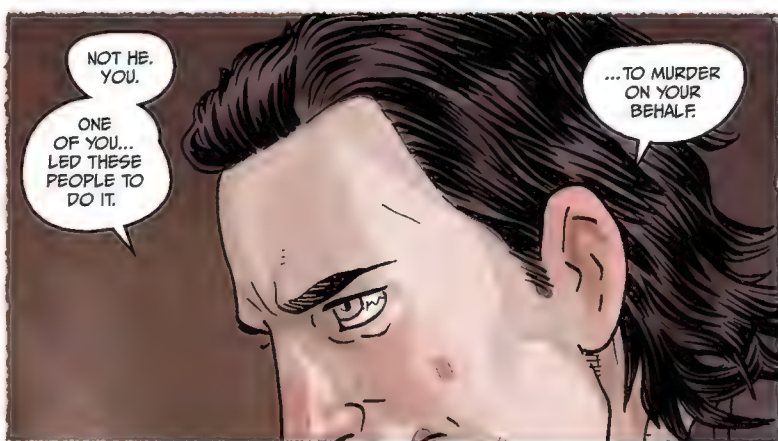
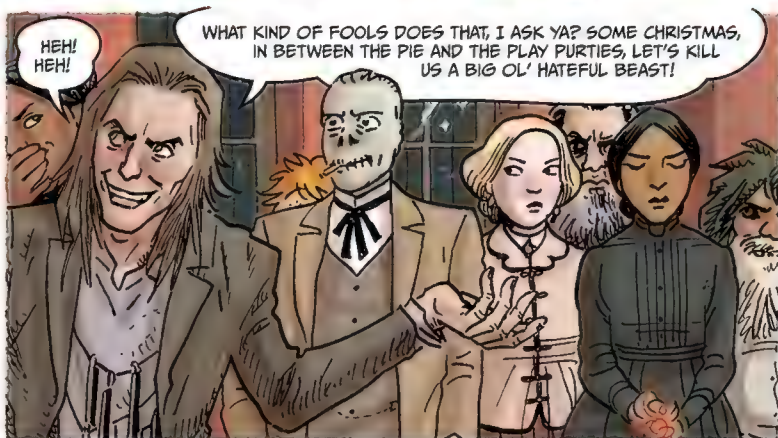
MALACHI'S THE ONE WHO THINKS HE CAN MAKE A LAW 'N' THEN STAND ABOVE IT--

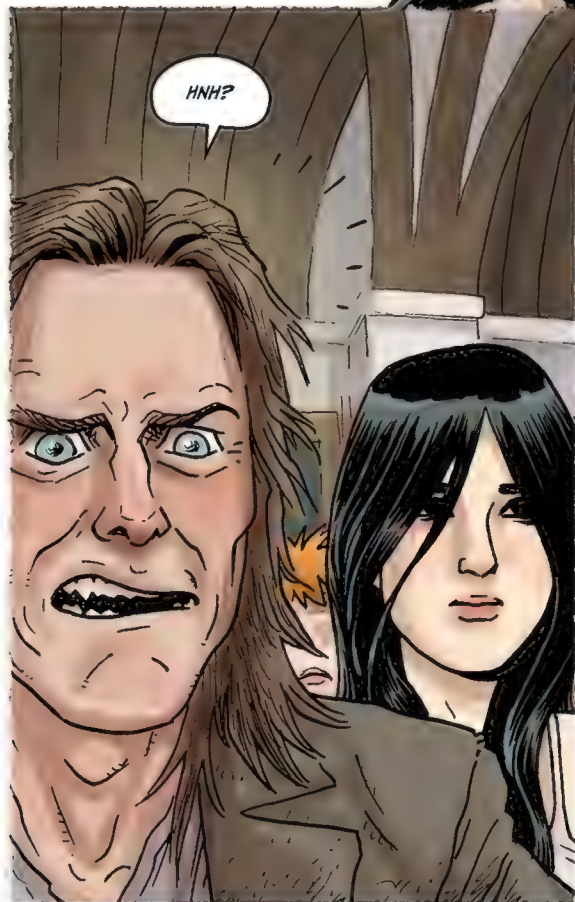
ME, NOW, I CHERISH THE LAW.

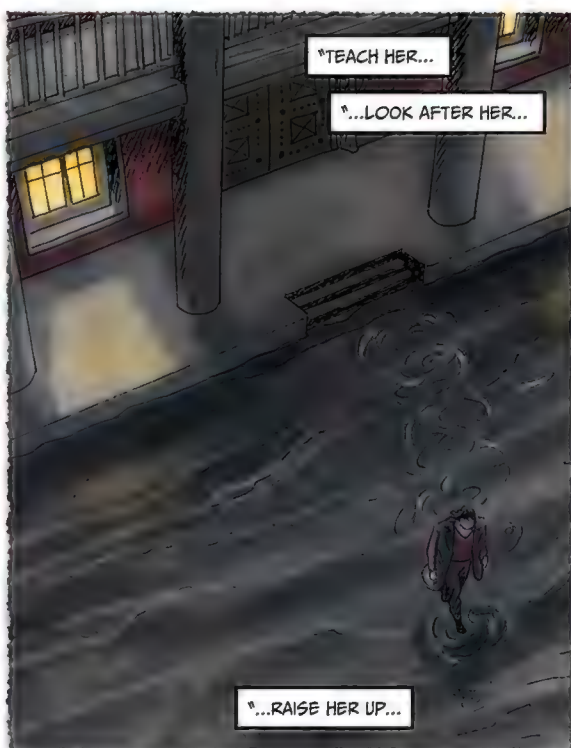
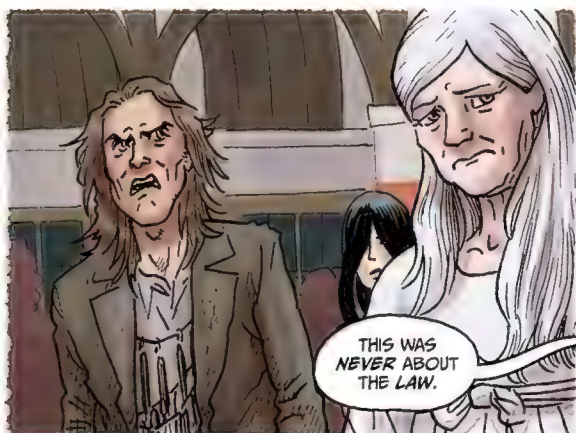
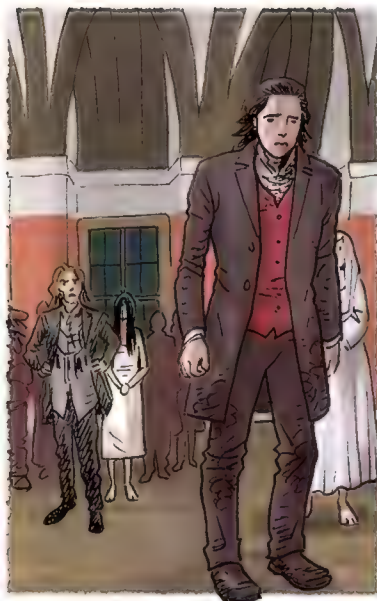


DO TELL.











"...AS I RAISED
UP ALL OF YOU."



SO...MALACHI
CREATED THE
FAMILY.

THIS MEANS
HE CREATED
HESTER,
TOO.

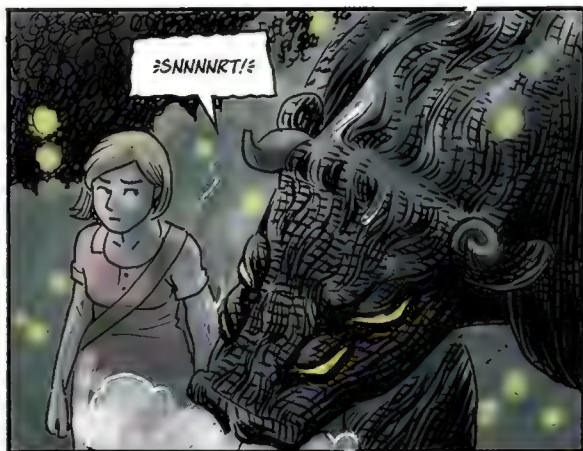
JUST LIKE HESTER
CREATED ALL THE HAINTS
IN HARROW.



HESTER WUZ
THE LAST OF HIS
CHILDREN.



WHAT ABOUT
YOU?
WHEN DID
HE CREATE
YOU?



SNNNRT!



HEY, YOU DECIDED
TO TELL ME THIS
STORY.
YOU SHOULD
EXPECT A FEW
QUESTIONS.



MALACHI
IS GONE.



I THOUGHT
MAYBE...
...I GUESS I
SYMPATHIZED
WITH HIM.

HE DIDN'T
SOUND SO BAD,
HIM AND AMARYLLIS
BOTH.



BUT HE BROUGHT
HESTER INTO THE
WORLD...

...AND
SHE WAS
JUST...

YEW THINK THAT
WUZ THA WORST
HE DONE?



YEW MIGHT
BE RIGHT.

HE RAISED
THA' WOMAN INTO
THA LIGHT...

...PLANTED HER
LIKE A BITTER SEED
AMONG THA
FAMILY...

...HOPIN' SHED
WORK HIS WILL
ON THEM



BUT IN THE END...
HE DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT WOULD
GROW.

"THEY SAY YER CHILDREN
ALWAYS GROW UP TA
BREAK YER HEART.

"BUT MALACHI NEER
GRASPED THA' LESSON.



"MIGHT BE Y'GOT TA BE BORN
HUMAN TA KNOW SUCH TRUTHS.



"RIGHT FUNNY,
AIN'T IT?

"AN' SAD.

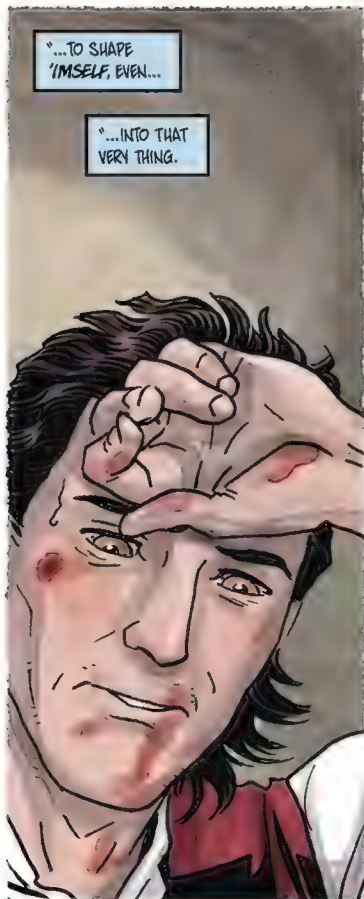


"MALACHI KNEW HIS CHILDREN
WOULD NEER BE HUMAN...

"...BUT HE KEPT ON
SHAPIN' 'EM. HOPIN'.

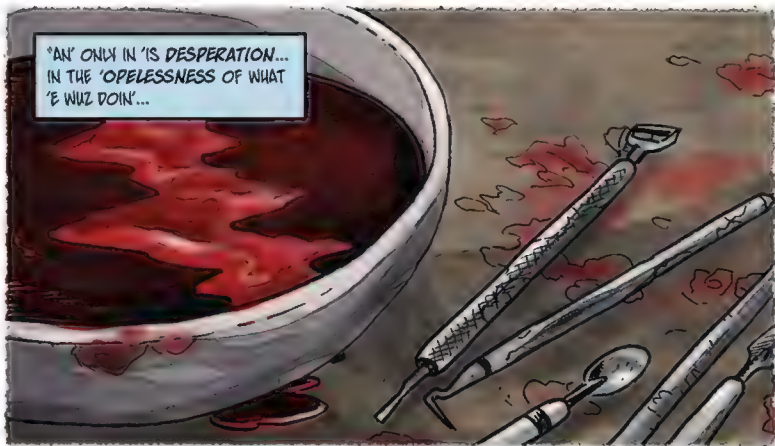
"DREAMIN'.





*...TO SHAPE
'IMSELF, EVEN...

*...INTO THAT
VERY THING.



*AN' ONLY IN 'IS DESPERATION...
IN THE 'OPELESSNESS OF WHAT
'E WUZ DOIN'...



*...DID 'E EVER
COME CLOSE."



GASSP

*MALACHI THOUGHT HESTER
MIGHT BE THA CLOSEST THING
TO A TRUE HUMAN THAT
HE'D EVER FASHIONED.

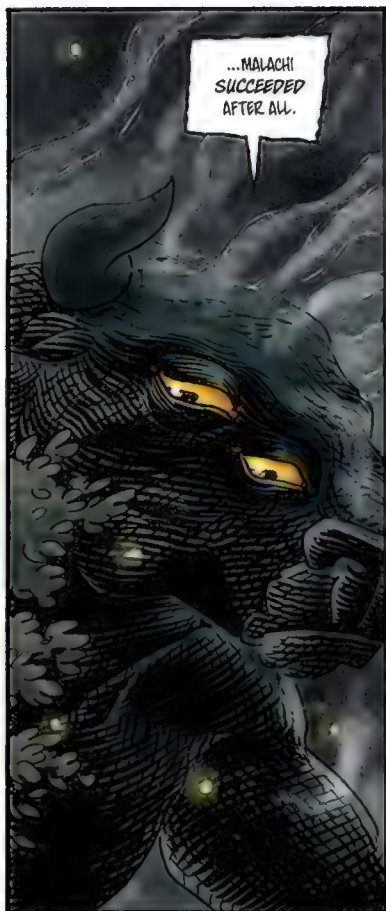


*SAD THING IS...



*...HE WAS PROBABLY RIGHT.





...MALACHI
SUCCEEDED
AFTER ALL.



YOU'RE NOT
TELLING ME
SOMETHING.

THERE'S
A GREAT DEAL I'M
NA' SAYIN'...

...NOT
YET.



YOU DON'T KNOW
ME VERY WELL
THEN, MISTER.

MY PA SAYS
HE'S SEEN STARVING
HOUNDS LET GO OF
A BONE EASIER.



OH
NO.

I AIN'T
FORGOT THA'
ABOUT YEW.

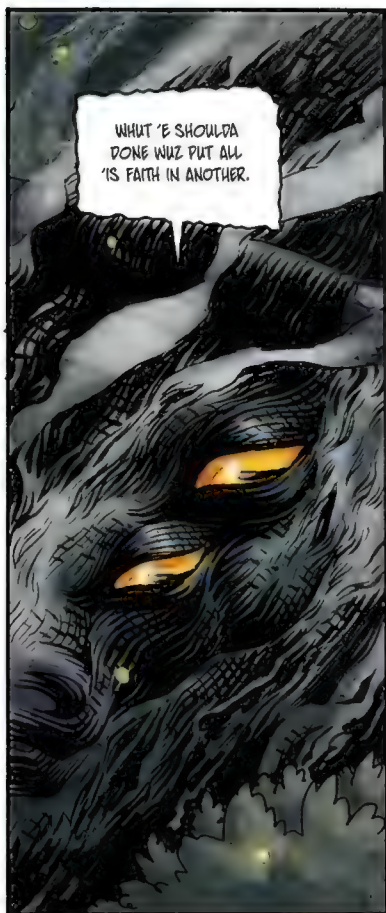


SO...
MALACHI CREATED
HESTER...

...HOPING
THAT SHE'D--
WHAT?
TAKE HIS
PLACES?

THA'S
RIGHT.

HOPING SHE'D
LEAD THA FAMILY...
MAKE 'EM
SOMETHIN' BETTER.



WHUT 'E SHOULDA
DONE WUZ PUT ALL
'IS FAITH IN ANOTHER.



...AMARYLLIS...



SHE MIGHT 'AVE
BEEN ABLE TO DO
ALL 'E DREAMED OF.

BUT HE THOUGHT
SHE WUZ TOO MILD.



TOO SOFT.
COULDN'T DO
WHUT NEEDED
DOIN'.

LIKE HE KNOWN
WHUT NEEDED
DOIN'.

DAMN FOOL.



WHERE DOES ALL
THIS LEAVE YOU?
FROM WHAT
YOU SAID...

YOU WERE
KILLED.

AW,
GIRL.



"AIN'T YA BEEN LISTENIN'?"



"MALACHI WANTED HESTER
TO LEAD IN 'IS ABSENCE..."

"...WANTED 'ER TO SHOW THE
FAMILY 'OW TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD..."



"...WITHOUT BEING GODS..."

"...OR DEVILS..."



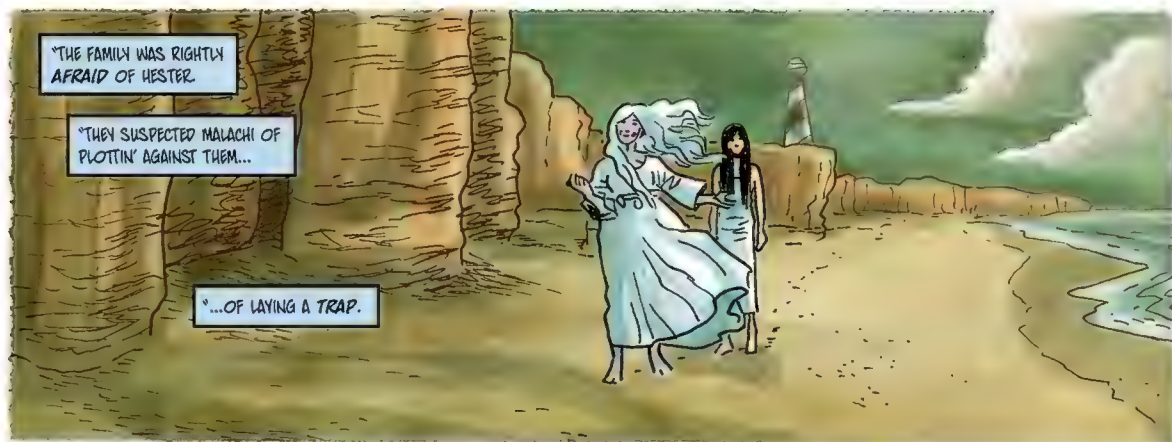
"BUT 'E COULDN'T TEACH WHUT
'E NO LONGER UNDERSTOOD."



"BUT THERE WUZ STILL SUCH
AWFUL LESSONS TO BE LEARN'T."







"I WONDER IF HESTER KNEW SHE
WUZ BEIN' WATCHED ALL ALONG.



"DID SHE KNOW THAT MALACHI
HAD BEEN FOLLOWIN' HER...

"...LOOKIN'
OUT FER 'ER?"



"DID SHE KNOW SHE'D THROWN AWAY
HIS DREAMS FOR HER, AS SHE'D
THROWN AWAY THE LOVE AMARILLIS
OFFERED HER?"



"I IMAGINE...

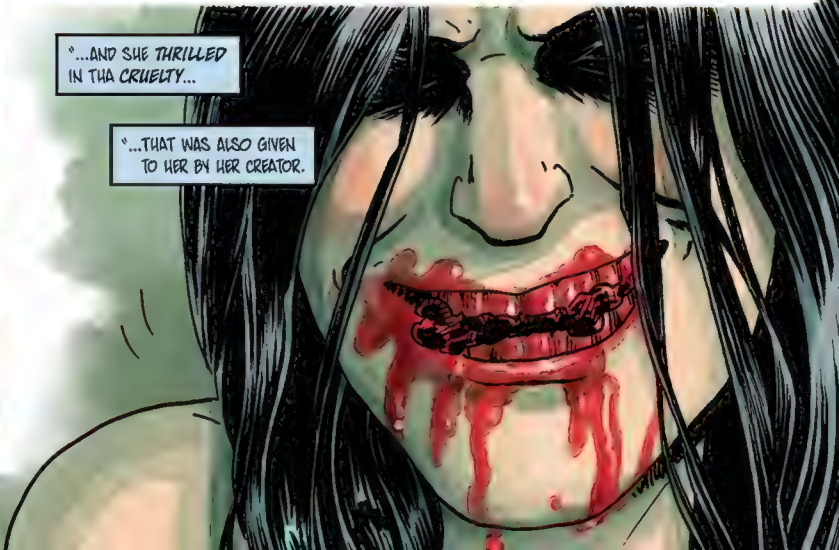
"...YES...

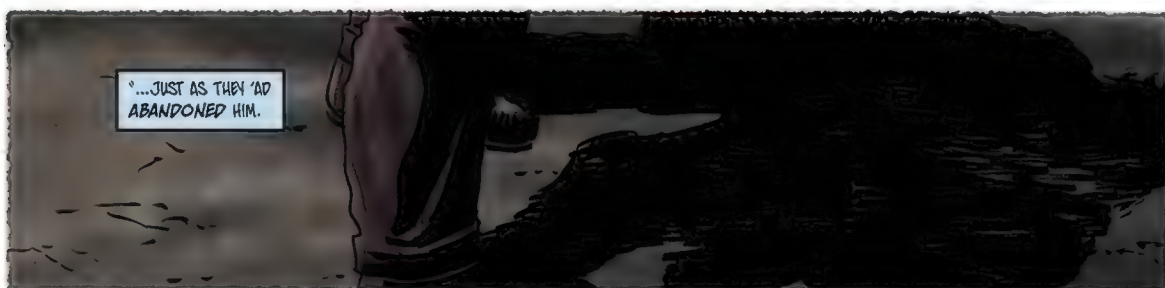
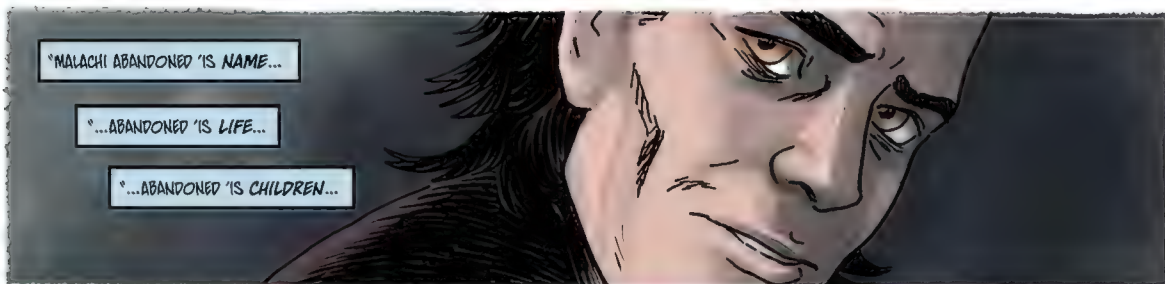
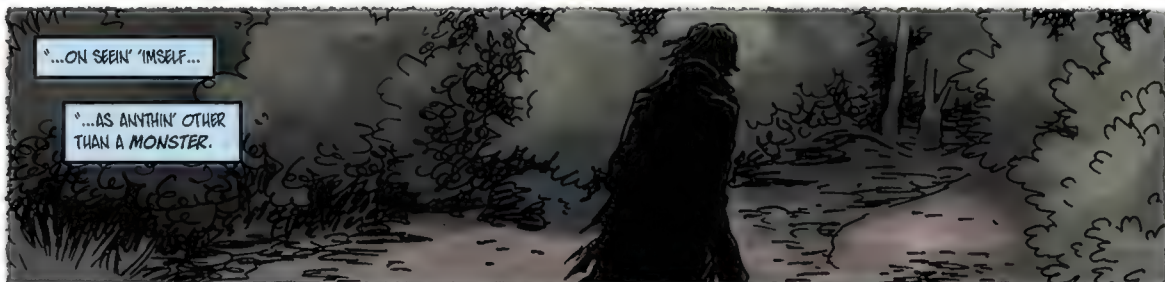
"...SHE KNEW..."



"...AND SHE THRILLED
IN THA CRUELTY..."

"...THAT WAS ALSO GIVEN
TO HER BY HER CREATOR.







"...IS 'OW I
SETTLED HERE."



"...YOU'RE
MALACHI."



I WUZ...
ONCE.

W-WHY
DIDN'T YOU
TELL ME?
WHY DIDN'T YOU HELP
ME WHEN YOU KNEW WHAT
WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?

WHY NOT FIND
ME SOONER AND TELL ME
I WAS HESTER RETURNED
TO LIFE?



SUCH SHAME I FELT.
FOR WHUT I HAD DONE.
FOR WHUT I LEFT UNDONE.
WHUT I'D BECOME.

WHUT I ALLOWED
TO HAPPEN TO YOU.



BECAUSE I'D TURN'T
MY BACK ON YOU.
THE FINEST THING
THAT E'ER CAME TO ME.

YOU AIN'T
HESTER. CHILD.



HOW I'VE
MISSED YE...

...AMARILIS.

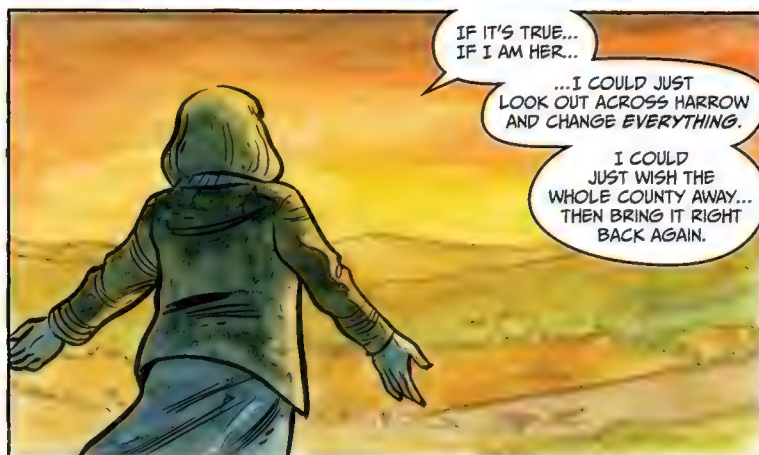


NINETEEN



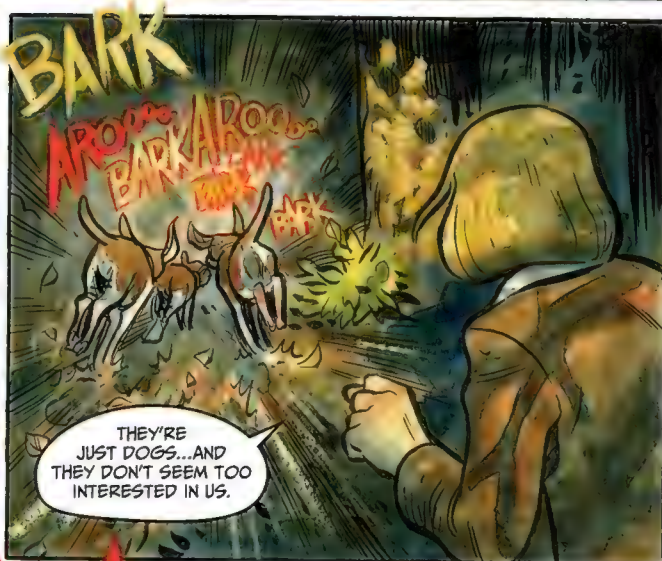
AMARYLLIS.



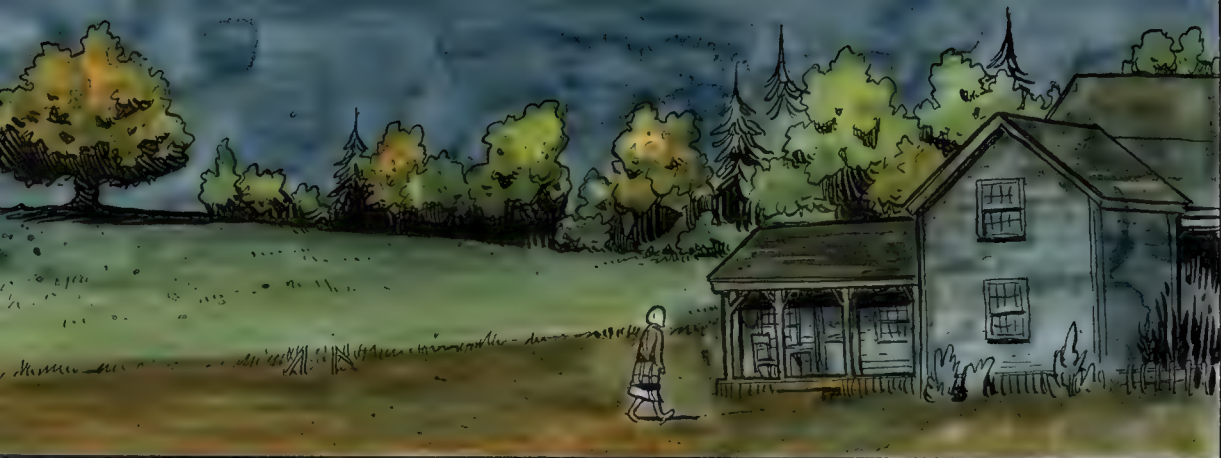














"ABOUT THE RED BARN?"

EMMY HAD NOT TOLD
HER FATHER WHAT THE
ABANDONED HAD SAID.



SHE DIDN'T TELL HIM THAT
SHE WAS NOT THE WITCH
HESTER BECK REBORN
AFTER ALL.

IT HADN'T BEEN ALL THAT
LONG AGO THAT PA HAD
CONTEMPLATED KILLING
HER SO THAT HESTER'S
EVIL WOULD NOT SEEP
INTO THE WORLD ANEW.



SHE KNEW THAT THE GUILT
HE FELT WEIGHED ON HIM
SOMETHING TERRIBLE.

SHE COULDN'T BEGIN
TO SPECULATE HOW
HE MIGHT REACT TO
THIS NEW REVELATION.



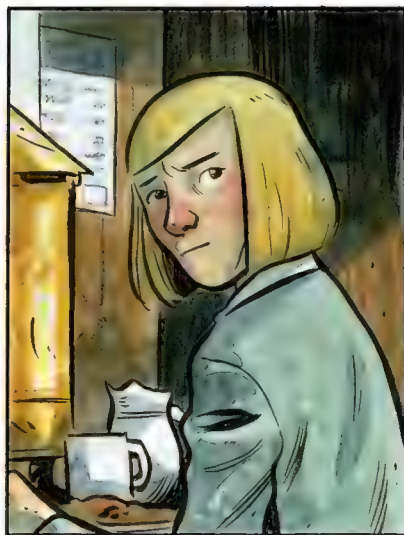
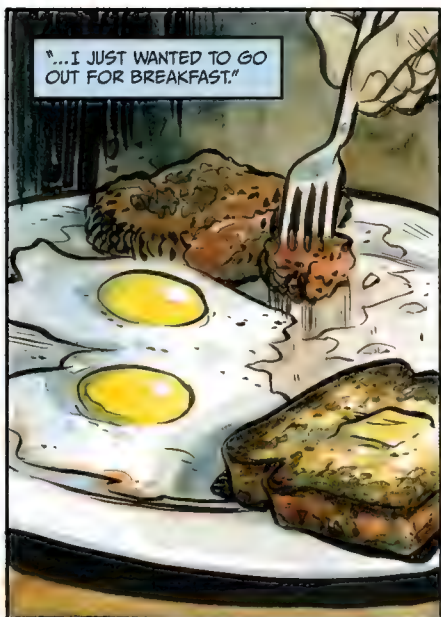
WOULD HE BE RELIEVED?
OR WOULD HIS REMORSE
BECOME EVEN MORE
UNBEARABLE?

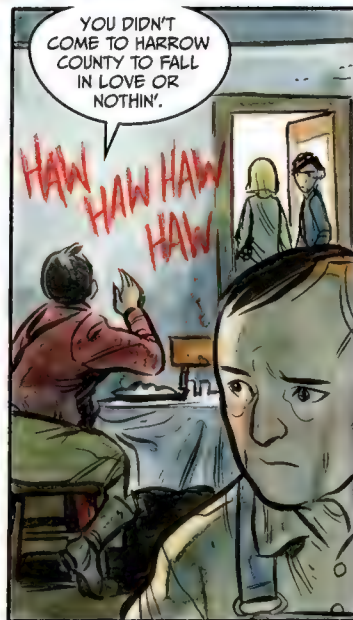
WOULD HE FEEL EVEN
LESS LIKE HER FATHER?

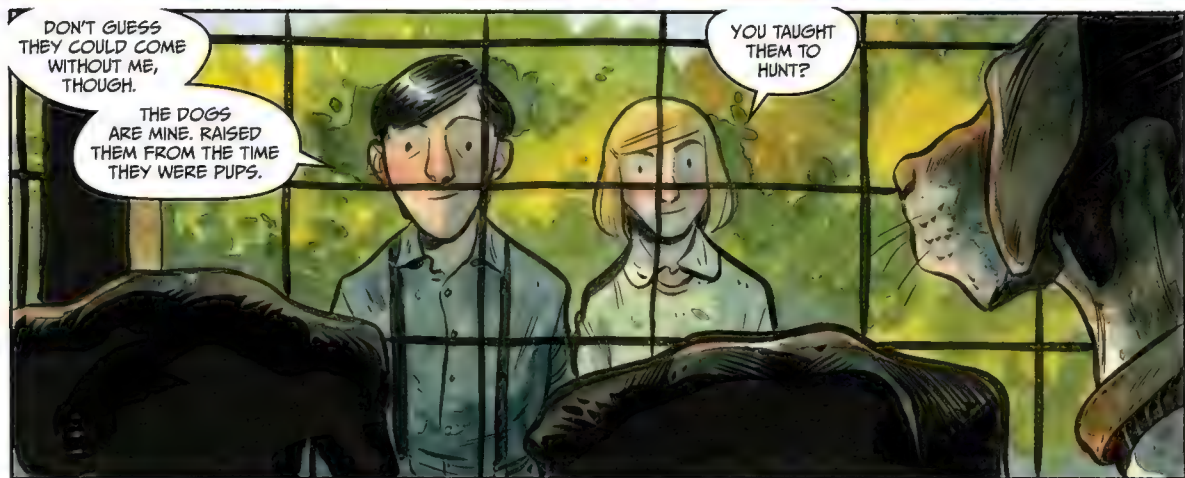


OR--AND THIS IS WHAT EMMY TRULY
FEARED--WOULD HE GROW EVEN
MORE FEARFUL OF HER, KNOWING
HER TRUE NATURE AS A BEING NEVER
MEANT TO LIVE AMONG MORTAL FOLK?











...

IT'S...
...UH...

...WELL,
IT'S BAIT, I
SUPPOSE.



WE'RE
GONNA USE IT
TO DRAW THAT...
THING WE'RE AFTER
OUT INTO THE
OPEN.

THAT
"THING"?
YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHAT
IT IS, DO YOU?



YOU HEARD SOME
TALL TALES...AND YOU
DECIDED TO COME
SEE IF THEY
WERE TRUE.

AND IF THEY
WERE TRUE...IF A
MONSTER REALLY
ROAMED HARROW
COUNTY...

...YOU
WANTED TO
KILL IT.

I DON'T
KNOW. THAT'S
NOT--



THE BEAST
YOU'RE HUNTING...
HE'S REAL...
BUT HE AIN'T
WHAT YOU
THINK.

YOU GO
AFTER IT, IT'S
GOING TO KILL
YOU.

THE FACT
THAT IT HASN'T
ALREADY IS A
MERCY.



ARE YOU
TRYING TO
SCARE ME?

WHAT DO
YOU CARE IF WE
KILL SOME ANIMAL
OUT IN THE WOODS? OR IF
IT KILLS US, FOR
THAT MATTER?

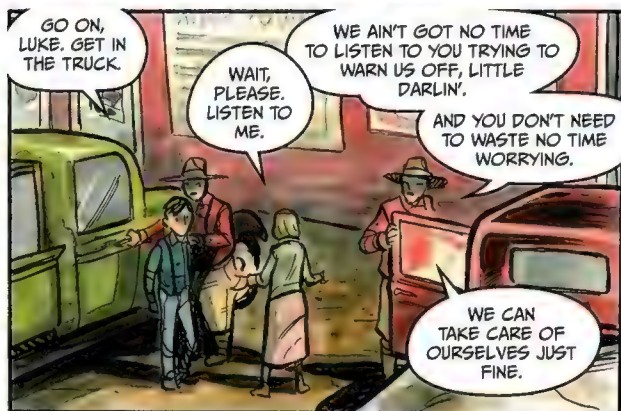
YOU DON'T
KNOW A THING
ABOUT US.



MY UNCLES AND
ME, WE CAME HERE
TO KILL THAT
THING...

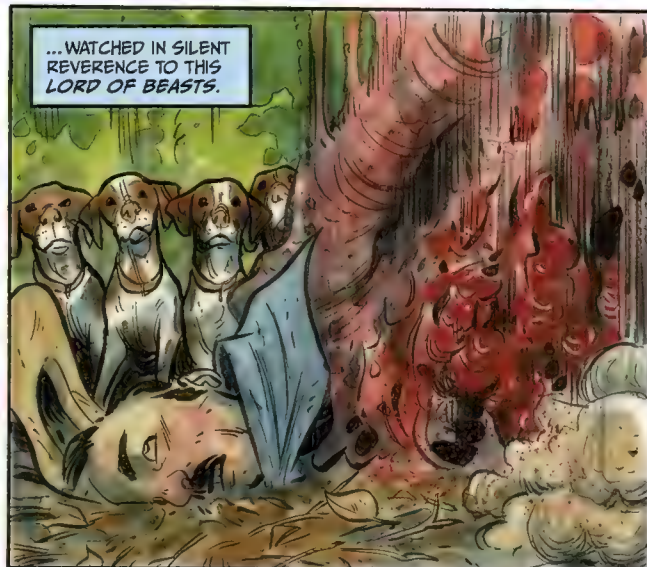
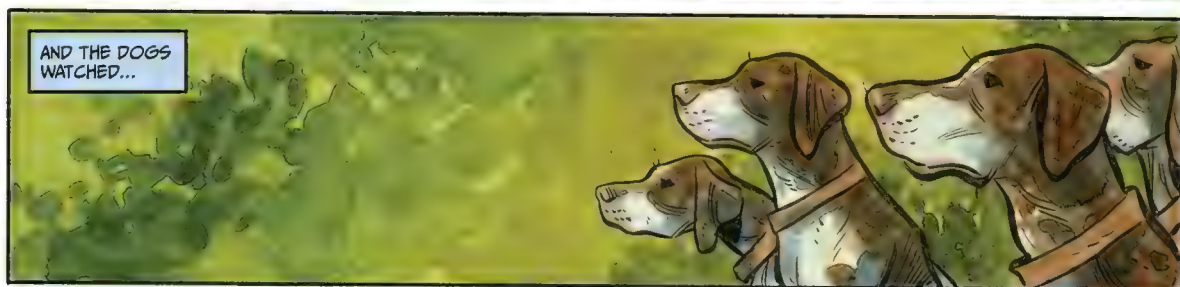
...AND--BY GOD--
THAT'S WHAT
WE'LL DO.

BUT YOU
CAN'T--













DEAD, ALL
OF THEM...

...ALL OF THEM
EXCEPT LUKE, AND
HE WAS BLEEDING
OUT FAST.



A LEGEND HAD
BROUGHT THEM
TO HARROW...

...A SWEET LEGEND TO
WARM A HUNTER'S SPIRIT...



...AND THAT SAME
LEGEND HAD
KILLED THEM.

EMMY HAD WARNED
THEM THAT THEY
KNEW NOTHING
ABOUT THE CREATURE.



THEY DID NOT KNOW
THAT THE MONSTER
HAD ONCE BEEN
CALLED MALACHI...

...THAT HE HAD
ONCE WALKED
THE EARTH AS
A MAN...



...THAT HE HAD BEEN
PATRIARCH OF A FAMILY
OF OTHERWORLDLY
CREATURES...

...THAT THAT FAMILY
HAD BETRAYED HIM...



...AND BECAUSE OF THAT BETRAYAL HE HAD CAST ASIDE ANY SEMBLANCE OF HUMANITY...

...AND THAT HIS RAGE HAD ONLY DEEPEDED WITH THE PASSING OF TIME.



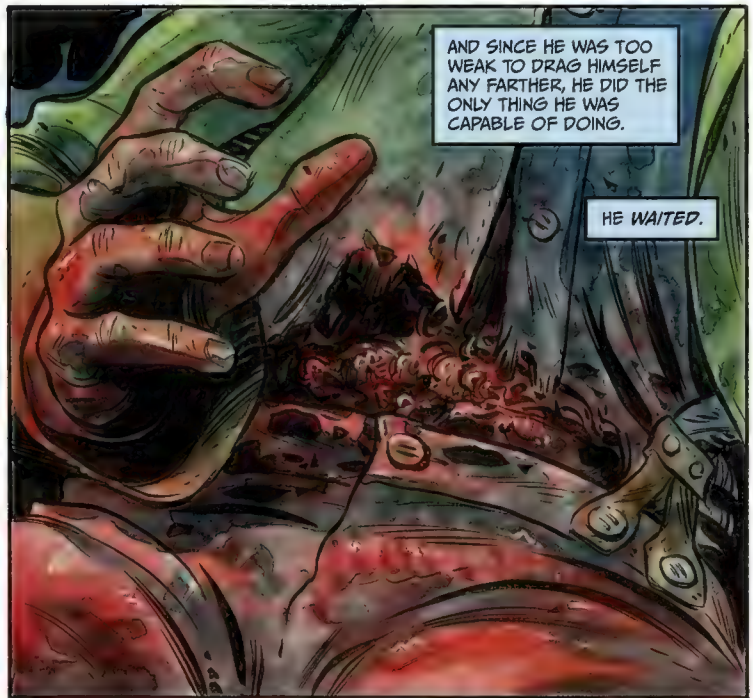
RUNNING THROUGH THE WOODS...PANTING FOR BREATH...LUKE COULD BARELY REMEMBER THE WARNING.

HE KNEW ONLY THAT THE BEAST WAS STILL OUT THERE...



...THAT IT HAD THE SCENT OF HIS BLOOD AND SWEAT IN ITS NOSTRILS...

...AND THAT AT ANY MOMENT IT WOULD CHARGE OUT OF THE FOREST TO TRAMPLE HIM.



AND SINCE HE WAS TOO WEAK TO DRAG HIMSELF ANY FARTHER, HE DID THE ONLY THING HE WAS CAPABLE OF DOING.

HE WAITED.



BUT THE BEAST NEVER CAME.



AND EVEN THOUGH IT FRIGHTENED HIM TO THINK OF WHAT GHASTLY ACTIVITY MIGHT CAUSE THE MONSTER TO TARRY...

...EVEN THOUGH THE WORLD WAS GROWING COLD AND DIM AROUND HIM...

...HE FOUND COMFORT IN HIS SOLITUDE.



HE FELT...

...SAFE.



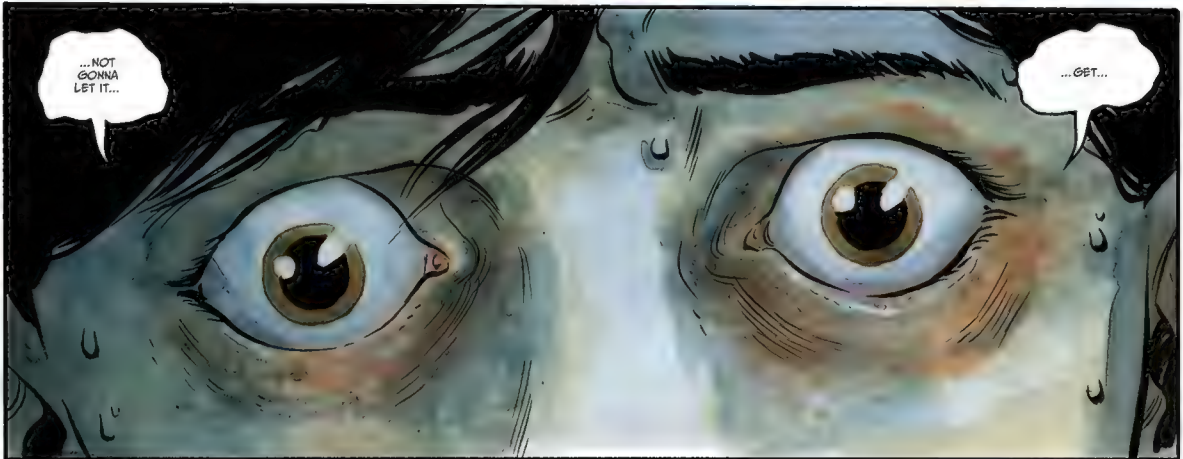
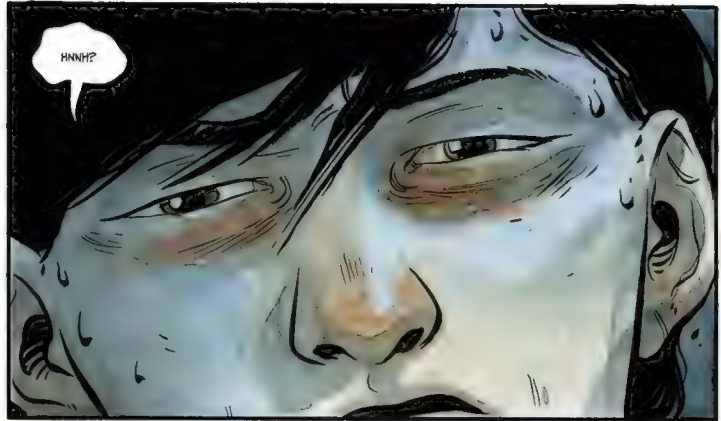
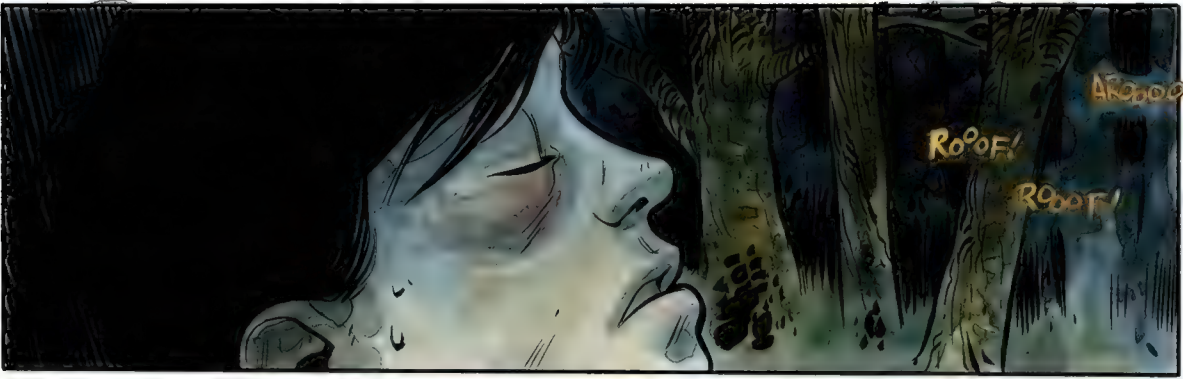
ED
TWENTY



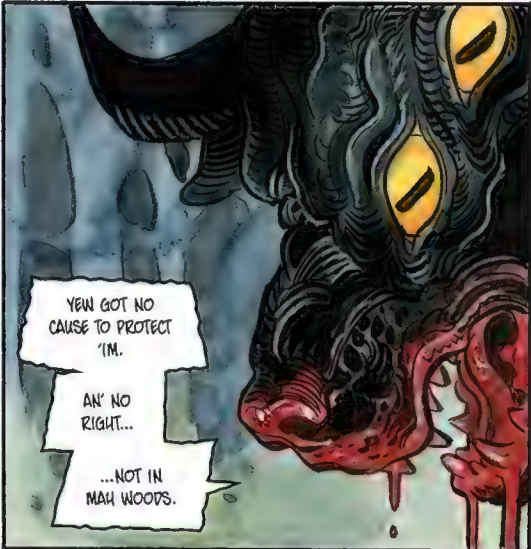
NOW...

...WHERE'D
THAT UDDER UN
GIT OFF TO?













...NOT
GONNA...

...NNN...

...LET THEM
GET ME!



FILTHY LI'L
RODENTS!

FILTHY LI'L
RODENTS!
SHOULDA
ATE YEN ALL
WHEN AH 'AD
THA CHANCE!



HES TER'S
GONE-GONE-GONE!

DONT FOLLOW
HER NO MORE!

YOU
KNOW
THAT!



N-NO...
PLEASE...

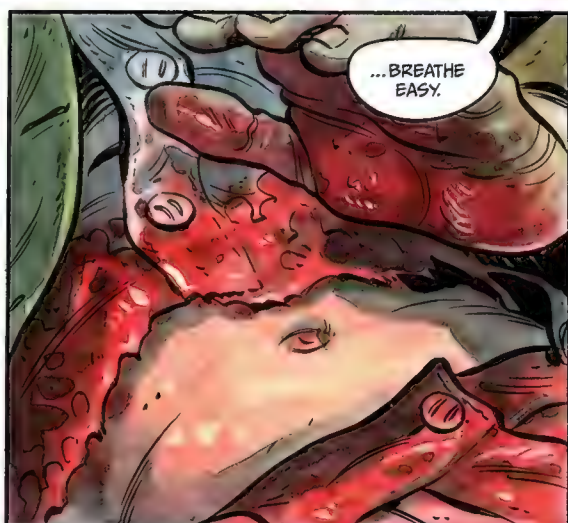
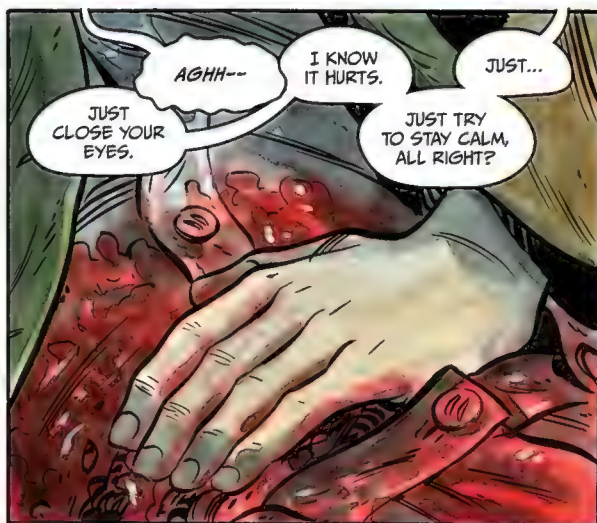
...JUST
LET ME
GO...



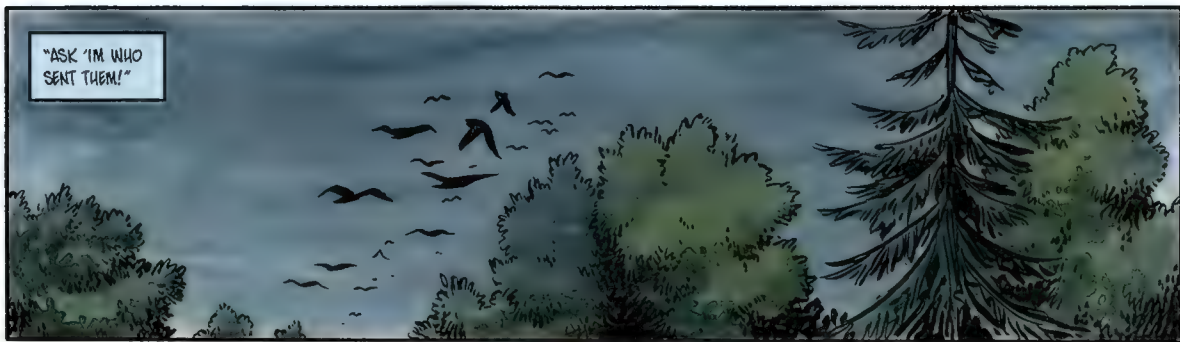
ENOUGH!















THE QUESTION THE ABANDONED
HAD BELLOWED STILL HUNG
HEAVY IN THE AIR.

"WHO SENT THEM?"



WHO HAD PUT THE
HUNTERS ON
MALACHI'S TRAIL
IN THE FIRST PLACE?

UNCLE
ROSS...

...UNCLE CLAYTON...
UNCLE RUSSELL...

...GONE,
ALL OF
THEM...

THE ABANDONED WAS AN
ANCIENT CREATURE...PERHAPS
ONE OF THE OLDEST LIVING
THINGS TO STILL WALK THE
EARTH...

AND HIS MIND
WORKED IN WAYS MOST
FOLK WOULD NEVER
UNDERSTAND.



SINCE HE HAD CAST ASIDE
THE FAÇADE OF HUMANITY...
SINCE HE HAD BECOME
THE BEAST...

...HE WAS CONSUMED
BY INHUMAN RAGE...



...BUT HE STILL LIKELY PERCEIVED A
GREAT DEAL MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.

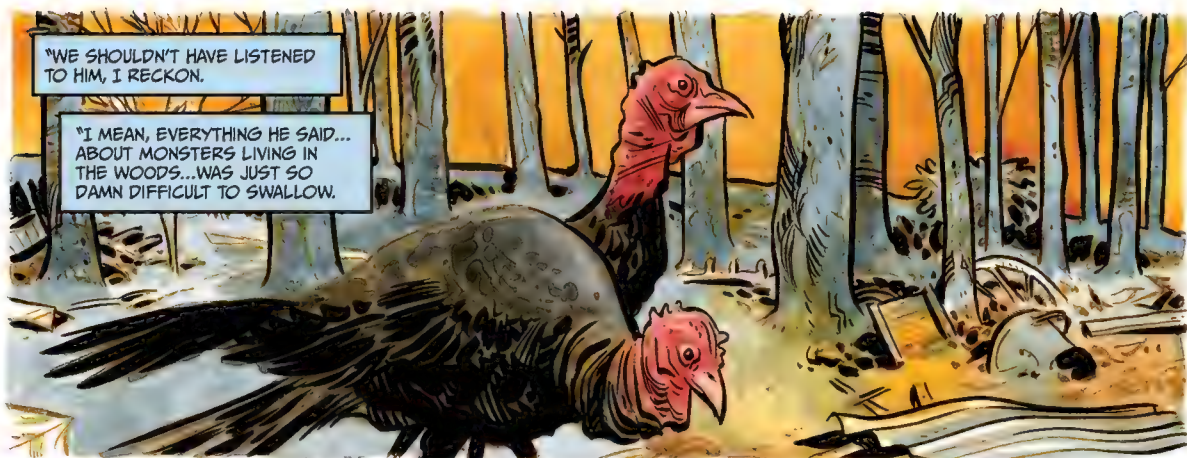
AND IF HE ASKED SUCH A QUESTION,
HE HAD SOME WISDOM TO IMPART.



IT WAS
UNCLE ROSS.

HE WAS
THE ONE WHO
HEARD ABOUT THAT
CREATURE.

HE WAS THE ONE
WHO CONVINCED THE
REST OF US TO COME
OUT HERE.



"WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED TO HIM, I RECKON."

"I MEAN, EVERYTHING HE SAID... ABOUT MONSTERS LIVING IN THE WOODS... WAS JUST SO DAMN DIFFICULT TO SWALLOW."



"BUT IT'S THE WAY HE HEARD ABOUT THE MONSTER THAT SHOULD'VE HAD US WORRIED."

"UNCLE ROSS DIDN'T HAVE NO JOB OF HIS OWN, SO HE SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN THE WOODS AROUND RUGGSVILLE."



"SAID HE DIDN'T NEED A JOB IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY..."

"...BUT THE TRUTH IS HE ALWAYS PREFERRED HUNTING... KILLING THINGS... TO WORK."



HHHHHAAARROW...



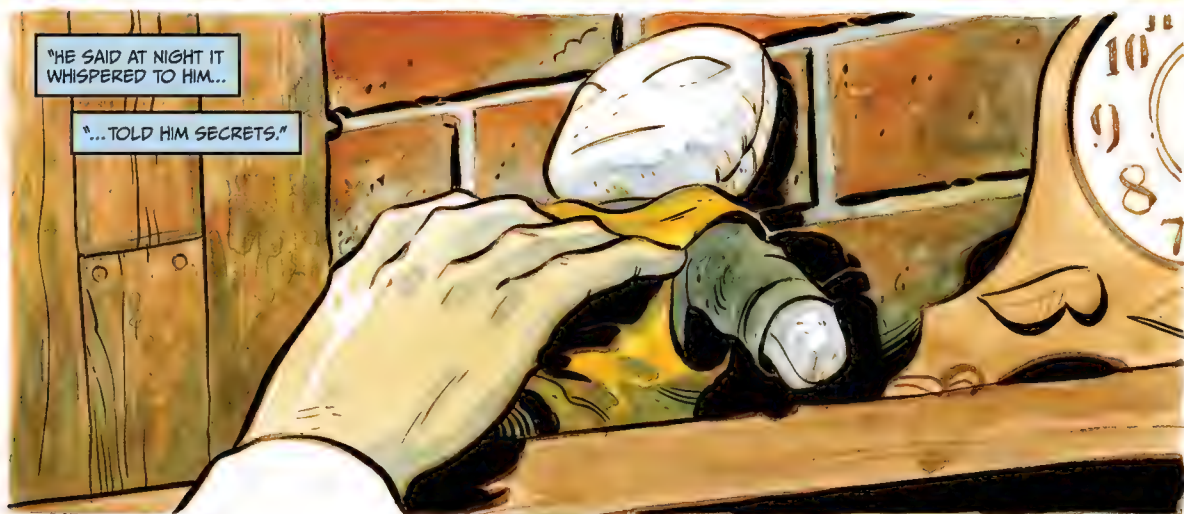
"HE SAID HE HEARD A VOICE SPEAKING TO HIM... CLEAR AS DAY..."

"...A VOICE THAT SOUNDED LIKE IT WAS ANXIOUS FOR SOMEONE TO LISTEN."



... SOMETHING IN HHHHAAARROW...

THHHHERE'S SOMETHING...







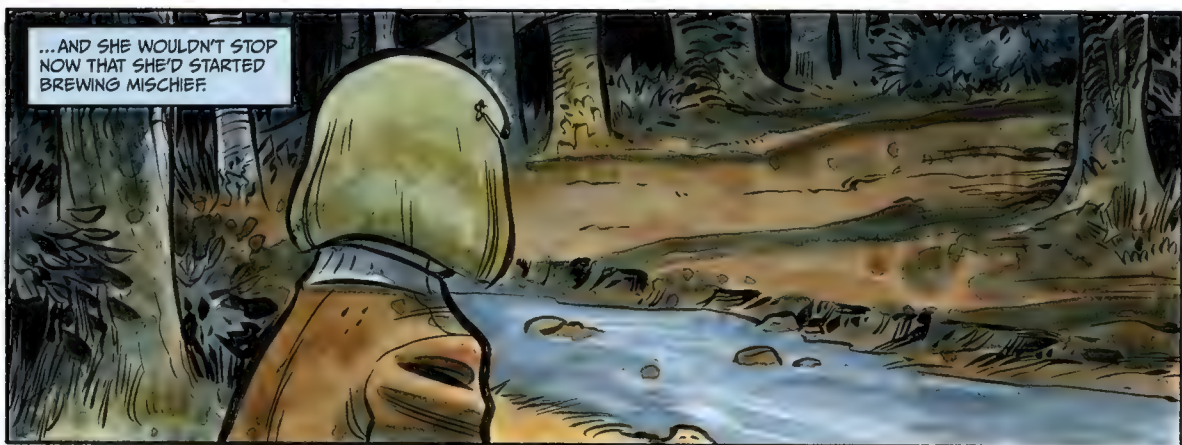
A KNOT OF ICE GREW
IN EMMY'S BELLY.

FOR A TIME, SHE HAD SUSPECTED
THAT HER "SISTER" WAS NOT SO
DEAD AS SHE BELIEVED.



NOW SHE KNEW THAT KAMMI'S SPIRIT
HAD SOMEHOW COMPELLED LUKE AND
HIS UNCLES TO COME TO HARROW...

...TO COME LOOKING
FOR TROUBLE...



...AND SHE WOULDN'T STOP
NOW THAT SHE'D STARTED
BREWING MISCHIEF.



HOW
DO I DO
THIS?

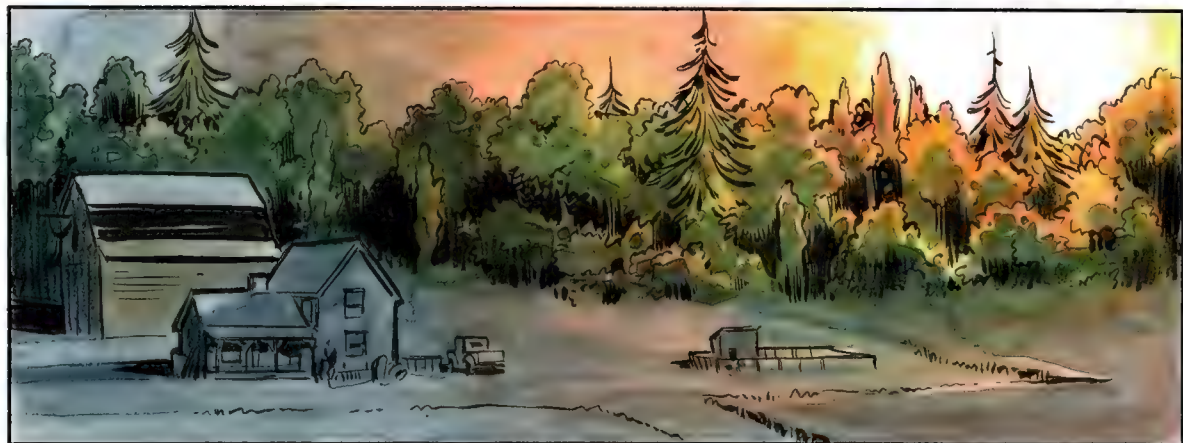
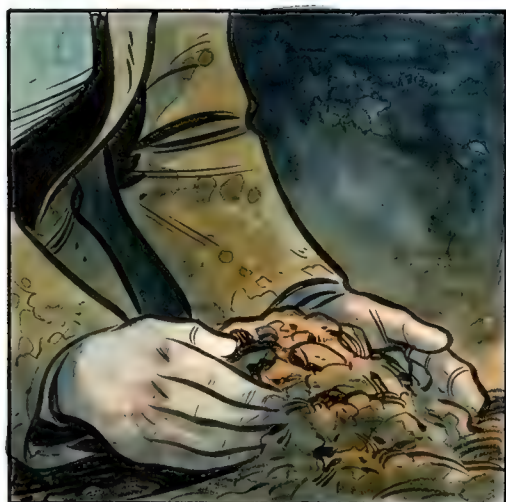
HOW DO
I MAKE THIS
WORK?



AND ONCE LUKE WENT
BACK HOME...

...WITH HIS WILD STORY...
WITHOUT HIS UNCLES...

...IT WOULD ONLY MEAN
MORE UNREST IN HARROW.







I'M PRETTY SURE WE KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOUR TRUCKS, TOO.

IF YA'LL DON'T MIND PILING IN THE BACK OF MY PA'S PICKUP, WE CAN TAKE YOU RIGHT TO THEM.

AIN'T THAT RIGHT, PA?



THAT'S... UM...

... THAT'S RIGHT, EMMYGIRL.



I'M SURE YOU ALL WANT TO GET BACK HOME AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, LITTLE LADY!



YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, GIRL? TELL ME YOU DIDN'T--

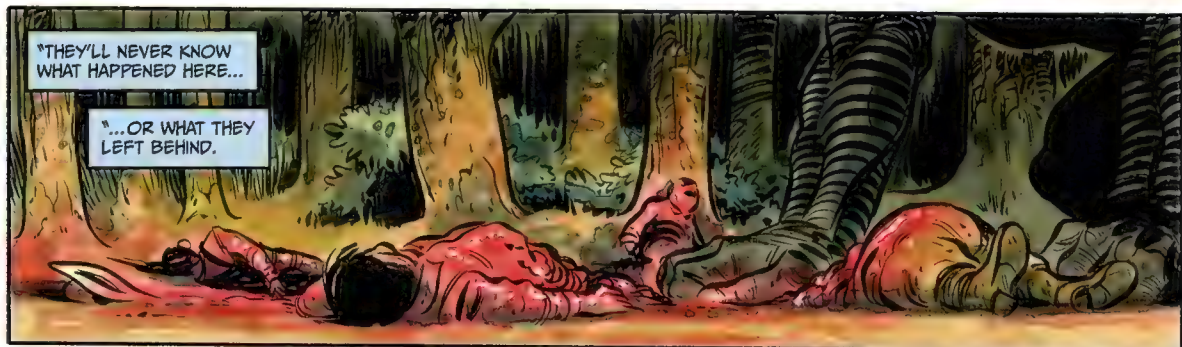
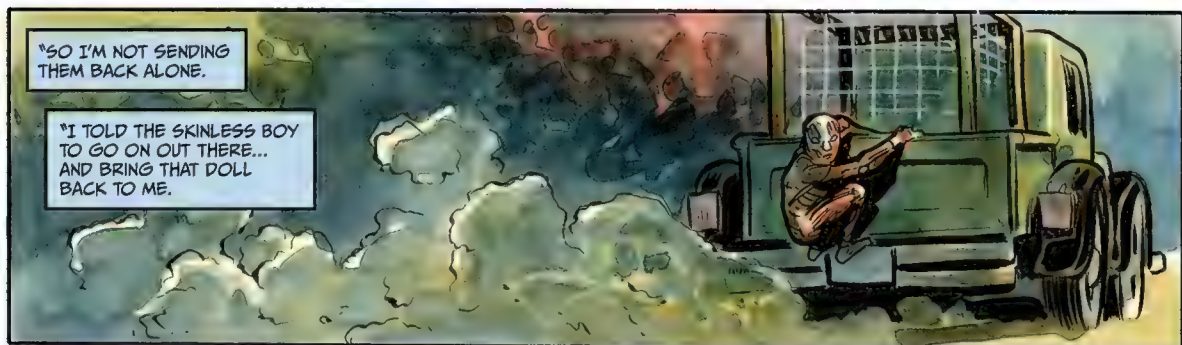
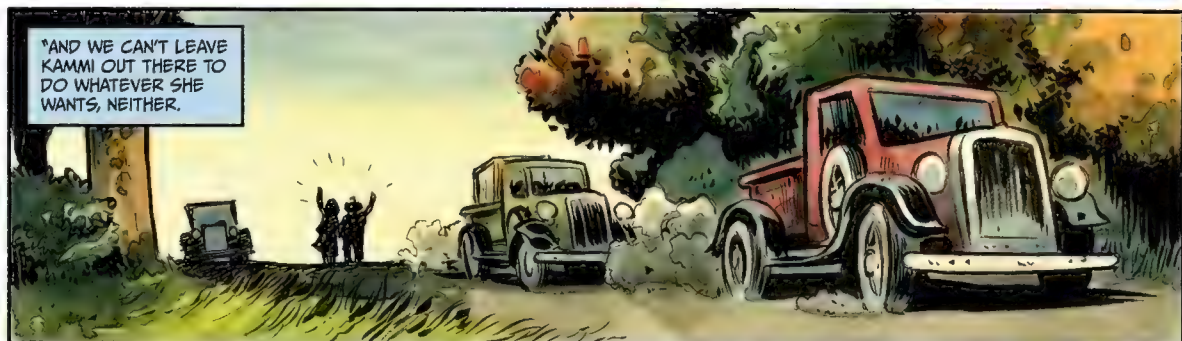


I DID WHAT I HAD TO, PA.

WE HAVE TO SEND THEM BACK HOME... TO RUGGSVILLE...


...LIKE NOTHING BAD EVER HAPPENED HERE...

...AND I DON'T EVEN WANT THEM TO REMEMBER WHAT THEY CAME LOOKING FOR.





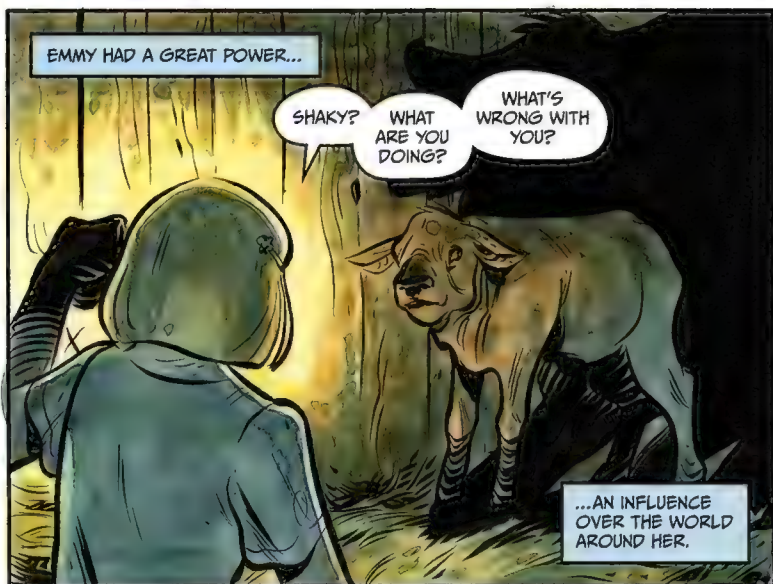
TWENTY-ONE

A young woman with blonde hair, wearing a green short-sleeved dress and brown shoes, is walking through a dark, cluttered barn. She is holding a glowing lantern in her right hand, which illuminates the area around her. The barn has wooden walls and a high ceiling with exposed beams. A large sack of corn is visible on the floor. The overall atmosphere is dark and mysterious.

SOMETIMES A SHADOW
WAS JUST A SHADOW.

EMMY KNEW THAT
MUCH TO BE TRUE.

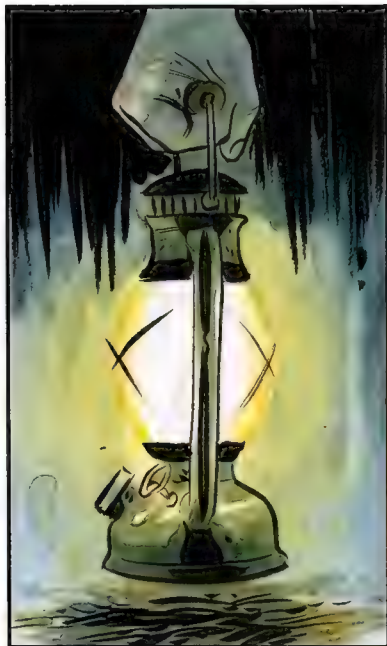
BUT ON OCCASION...IN
HARROW COUNTY MAYBE
MORE SO THAN ANYWHERE
ELSE IN THE WORLD...





QUIET
NOW.

LET ME
SUSS THIS OUT
IN PEACE.



IS THERE
SOMEONE ELSE IN
HERE WITH US?

IF THERE IS,
COME ON OUT AND
SHOW YOURSELF.





PRISCILLA?



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING UP
THERE?

SEEMS LIKE
NEAR ABOUT EVERY TIME
I SEE YOU, YOU'RE SKULKING
ABOUT IN THE RAFTERS.



HRRF
HRRF

COME
ON DOWN
NOW.



DON'T TELL
ME YOU'RE SCARED,
TOO.
COME DOWN
HERE.

I WON'T
LET ANYTHING
HAPPEN TO
YOU.



IT AIN'T
SAFE.

AIN'T SAFE
TO COME OUT
OF HIDING.



TOO LATE FOR
THAT NOW, I
RECKON.

YOU MUST'VE
COME HERE FOR
A REASON.

IF YOU WANTED
TO HIDE, YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE LEFT THE GRAIN
ELEVATOR.



NO.

NOT
SAFE THERE,
NEITHER.



THE HUMAN-
FOLK...

...THEY STILL
WANT TO RUN
ME OFF.

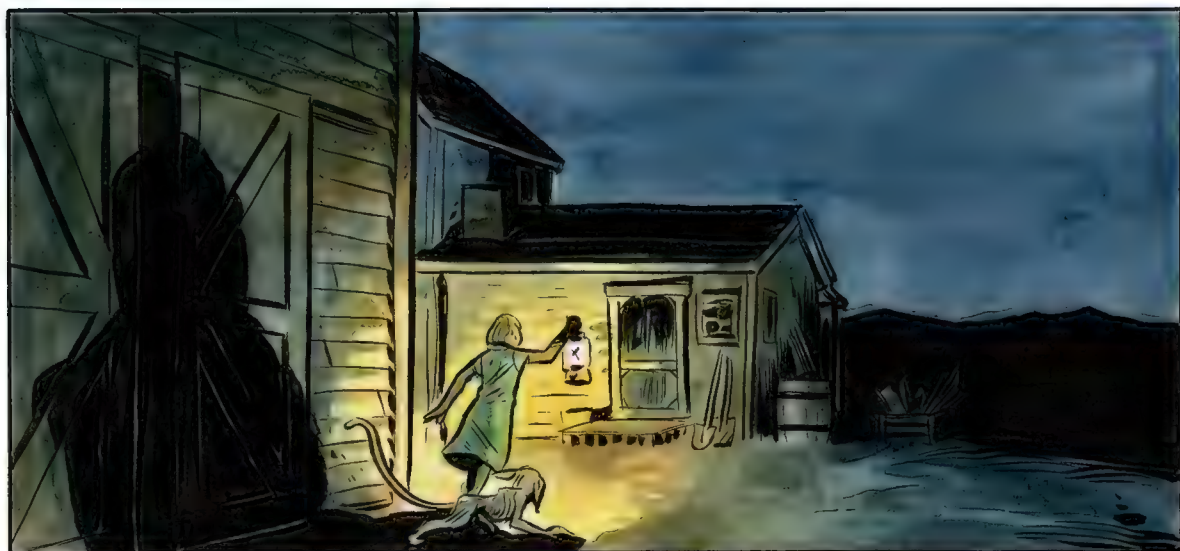
WHEN YOU
WOULDN'T DO IT
FOR THEM, THEY
FOUND *SOMEONE*
ELSE.



A
HUNTER.

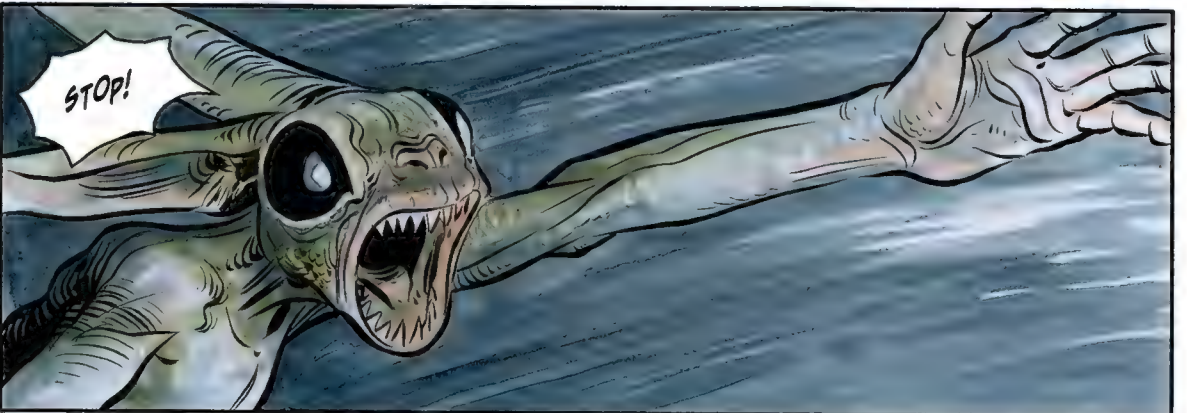


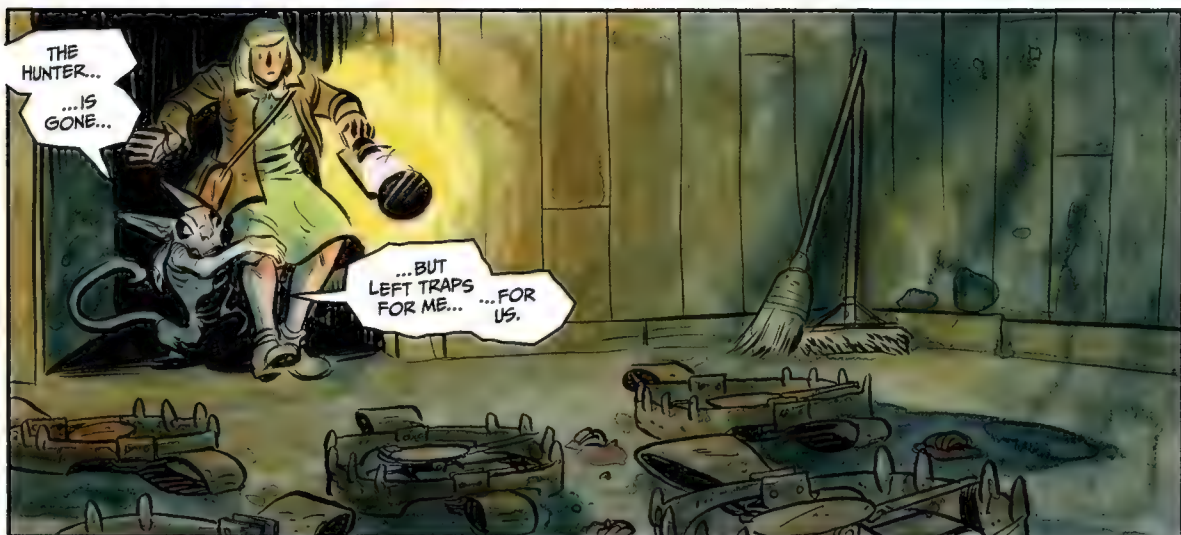
SHOW
ME.











THE
HUNTER...
...IS
GONE...

...BUT
LEFT TRAPS
FOR ME... ...FOR
US.



LOOK
AT THEM
ALL.

THEY'RE OLD...
AND IT LOOKS LIKE
THEY'VE SEEN A
GOOD BIT OF
USE.

AND THERE
ARE ALL THESE
SYMBOLS SCRATCHED
INTO THE RUST.



SOME PREY
IS **STRONGER**
THAN OTHERS.



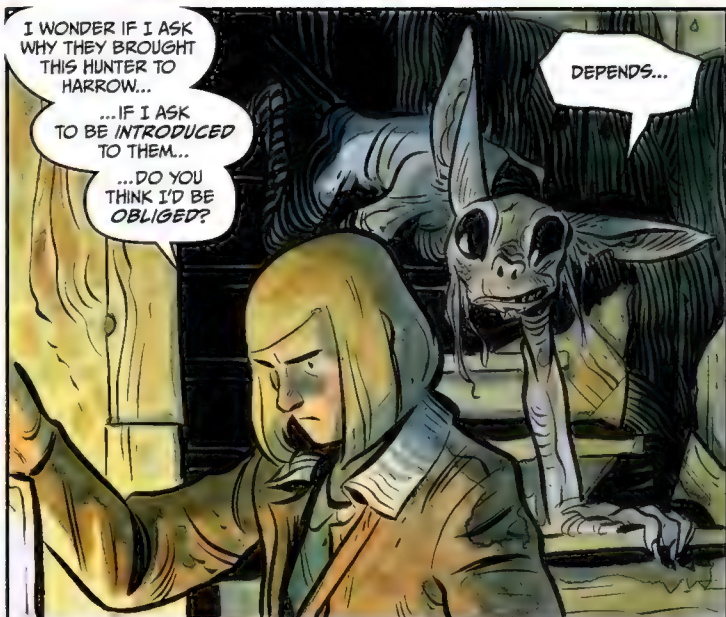
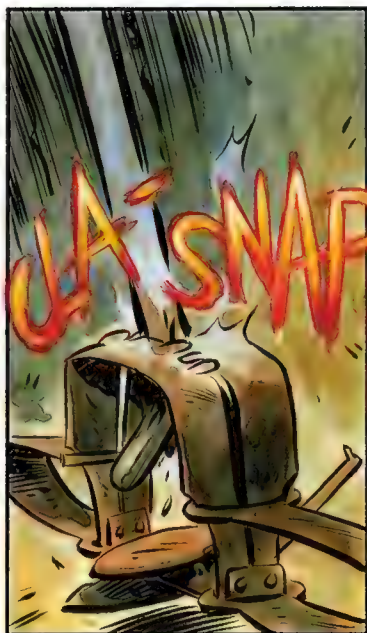
WHY WOULD THEY
SEND A HUNTER
AFTER YOU?

THEY KNEW
YOU MEANT NO
HARM.

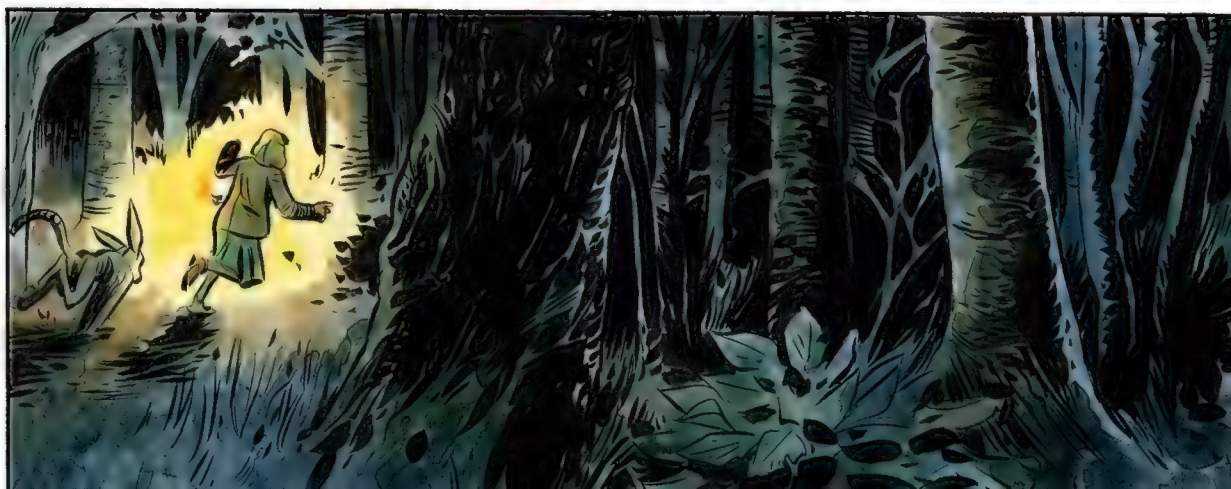
I TOLD
THEM TO LEAVE
YOU BE.



HUMAN-FOLK
DON'T LISTEN NEARLY
AS WELL AS HAINTS,
I RECKON.











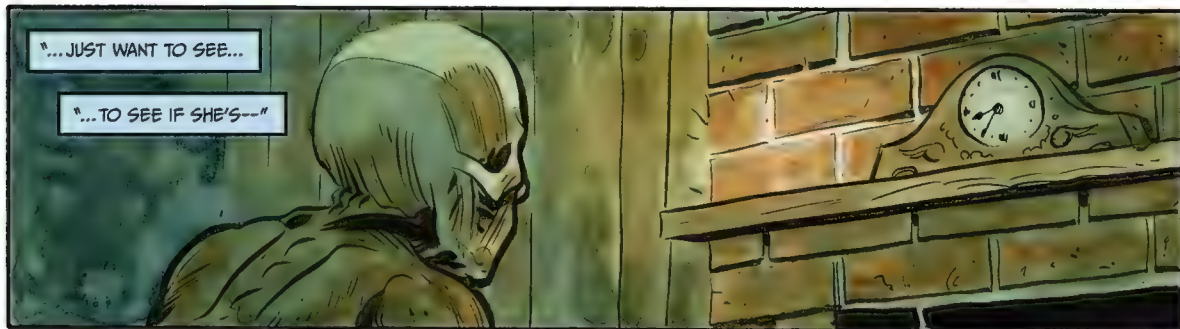


...BACK
HERE WITH
ME.

I SHOULDN'T
HAVE SENT YOU
AWAY.

I THINK
WHOEVER WE'RE
DEALING WITH...
I MIGHT NEED
HELP.

...SSSO
CLOSSSE...



"...JUST WANT TO SEE..."

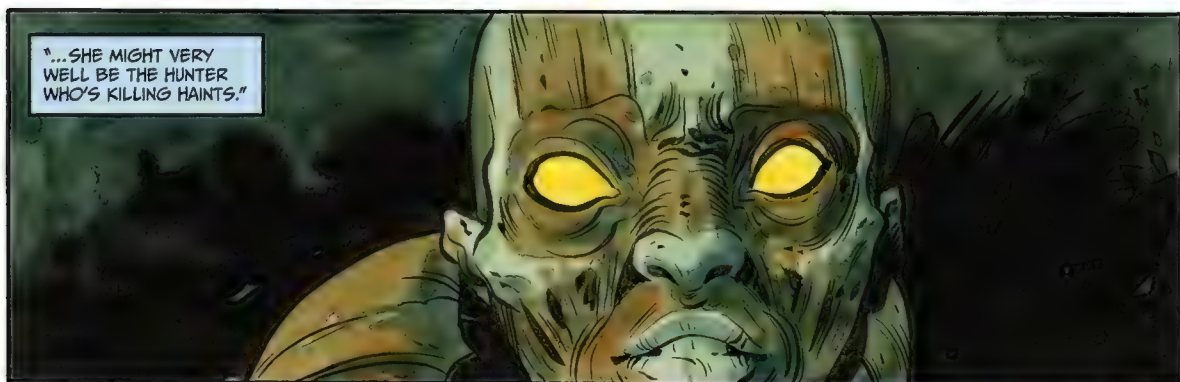
"...TO SEE IF SHE'S--"



--GONE.

SHE COULD
BE ANYWHERE.
SHE MIGHT
EVEN BE BACK
IN HARROW.

FOR ALL
WE KNOW...



"...SHE MIGHT VERY
WELL BE THE HUNTER
WHO'S KILLING HANTS."



GET
YOURSELF BACK
HERE...
...QUICK
AS YOU CAN.

I THINK
I'LL NEED
YOU.

DON'T FRET,
EMMY.

I'M HERE.
WE'LL PROTECT
EACH OTHER--





...THE LOT OF YA.



MY BROTHERS.

BROTHERS?

AND THEY AIN'T NONE TOO SMART.



ARE, TOO!

I GOTTS PLENTY OF THINKING-WORKS!

NOT CLEVER ENOUGH TO AVOID BEING SNARED, ARE YA?

I'M SHAMED... EMBARRASSED FOR EMMY TO SEE MY BLOOD AND FLESH IN SUCH A PITIFUL STATE.

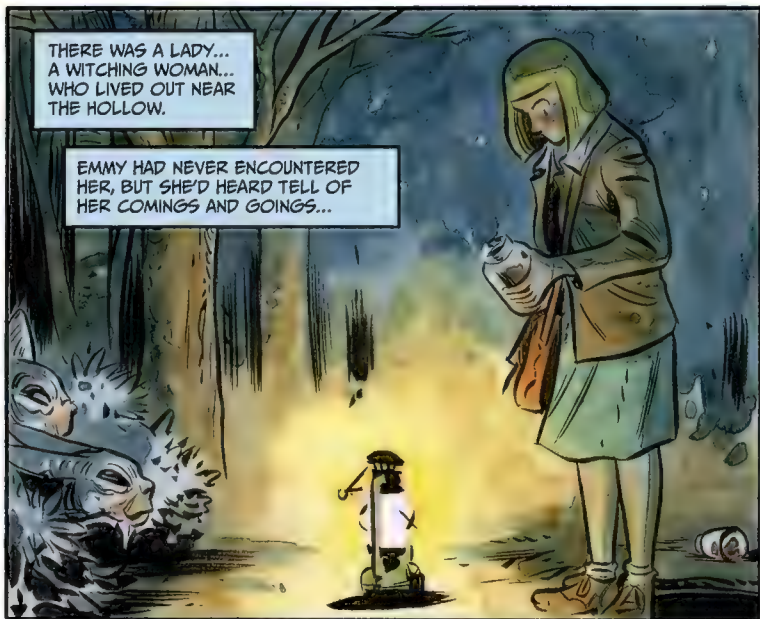


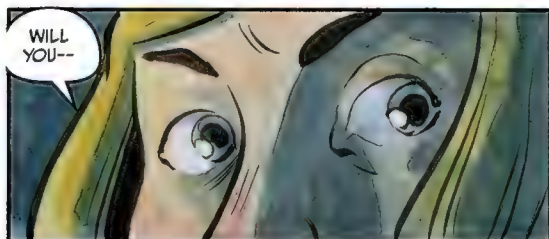
NOW, NOW.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. LET ME TAKE A--











--BERNICE?

I HAVEN'T
DECIDED JUST
YET, EMMY.

THERE ARE
A GOOD MANY FOLKS
WHO ARE AFRAID OF THE
VERY CREATURES YOU'RE
DEFENDING.



AND THEY'VE
ASKED ME TO DO
SOMETHING ABOUT
THEM.



I'M NOT GOING
TO LET YOU HURT
THEM, BERNIE.


THESE
ARE MY
FRIENDS.



THEN YOU AND
ME MIGHT HAVE
A BIT OF A
PROBLEM.



TWENTY-TWO



IT WASN'T ALL THAT LONG AGO THAT
BERNICE HAD DEFENDED HER FRIEND
AGAINST OLD LADY LOVEY'S ACCUSATIONS.

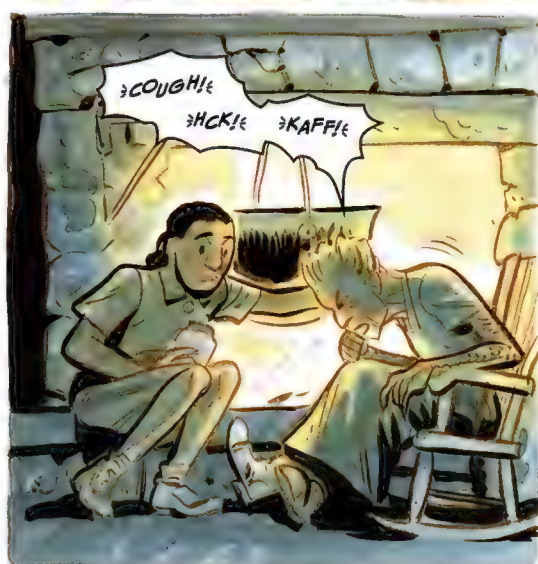
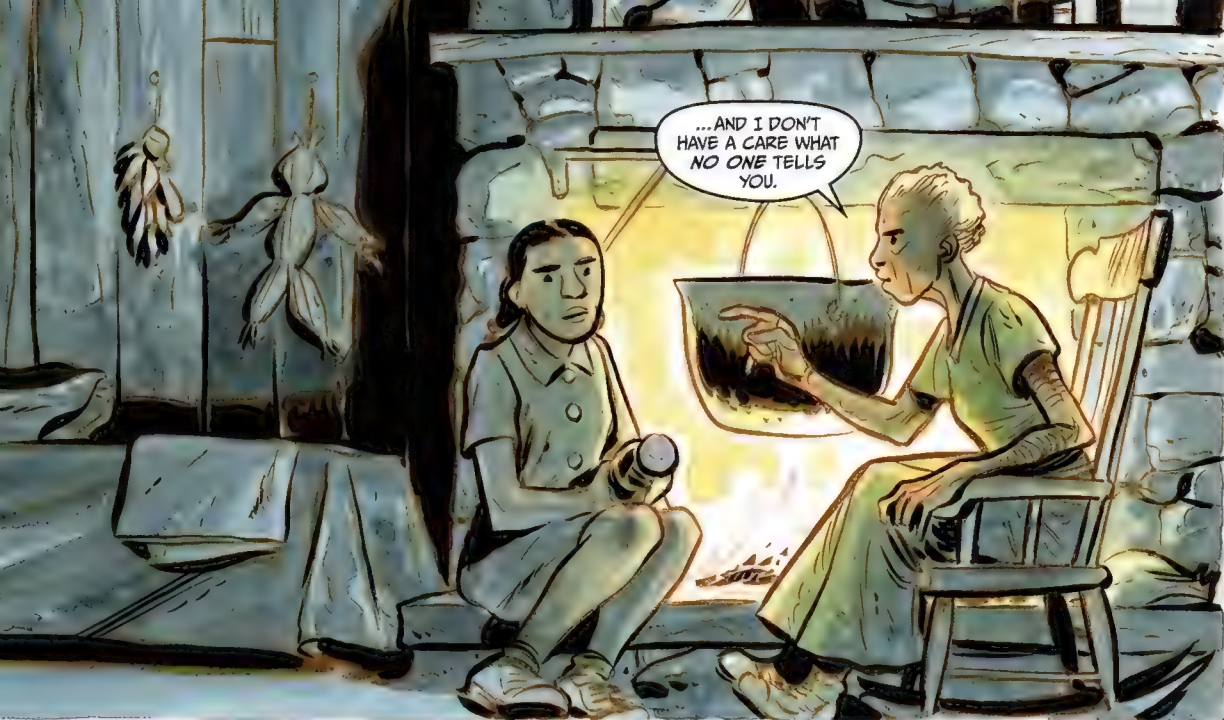
BUT EVEN THOUGH THE
CRONE HAD TAKEN ILL...

...EVEN THOUGH SHE COULD SEE
HER FINAL DAYS AHEAD OF HER...

...SHE WAS UNWILLING TO CHANGE HER
OPINION OF THE WITCH OF HARROW COUNTY.

THOSE HAINTS
OUT THERE...THEY WERE
BORN OF EVIL...

...AND THEY
SERVE AN EVIL
PURPOSE...







...SHE MIGHT ONE DAY HAVE TO
STAND AGAINST HER FRIEND.

BERNICE?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING OUT
HERE?

WHY ARE YOU...
HUNTING HAINTS?

I DON'T KNOW
WHY YOU CARE SO
MUCH NOW, EMMY.

SEEMS TO ME,
YOU ALL BUT **FORGOT**
ABOUT HELPING FOLKS
AROUND HARROW.

I'M TENDING
TO MATTERS YOU
OUGHT TO HANDLE,
EMMY.



BUT LATELY YOU SEEM
TO CARE MORE ABOUT **HAINTS**
THAN YOU DO ABOUT **PEOPLE**!



THAT AIN'T
FAIR AND YOU
KNOW IT.

I'VE BEEN
DOING WHAT I
CAN TO--

I DON'T
MEAN TO PLACE
BLAME.



BUT YOU'VE
BEEN...
...I DON'T
KNOW...

DISTRACTED.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



I WASN'T
SURE IF YOU EVEN
REALIZED IT.

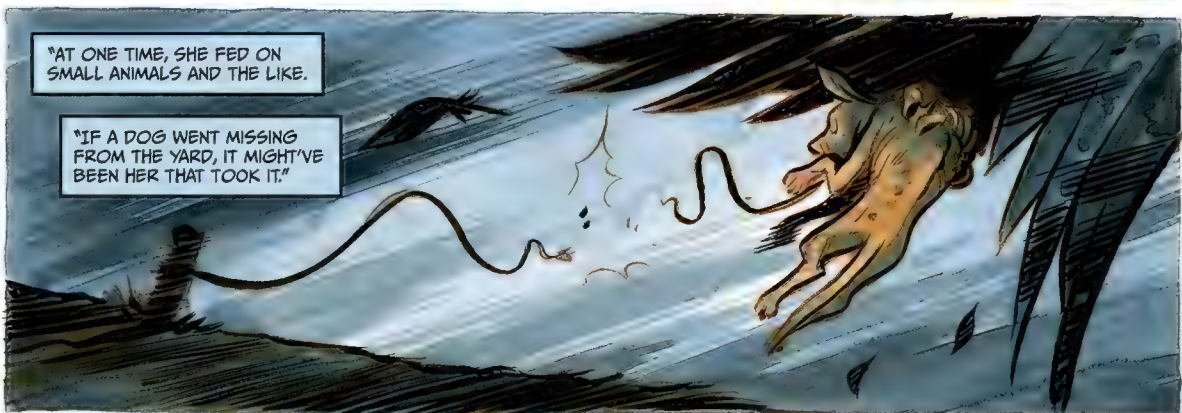
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON
WITH YOU, EMMY, BUT THERE
ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN
HARROW WHO ARE
SCARED.

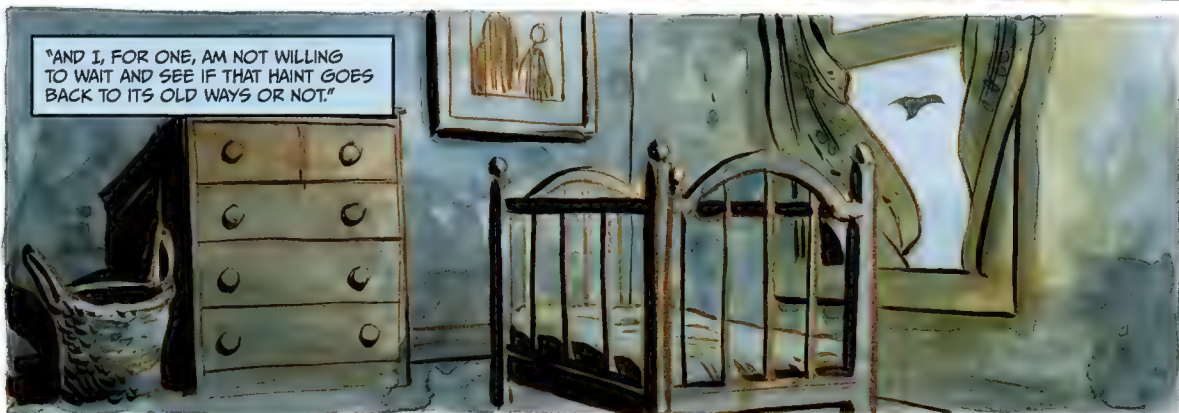
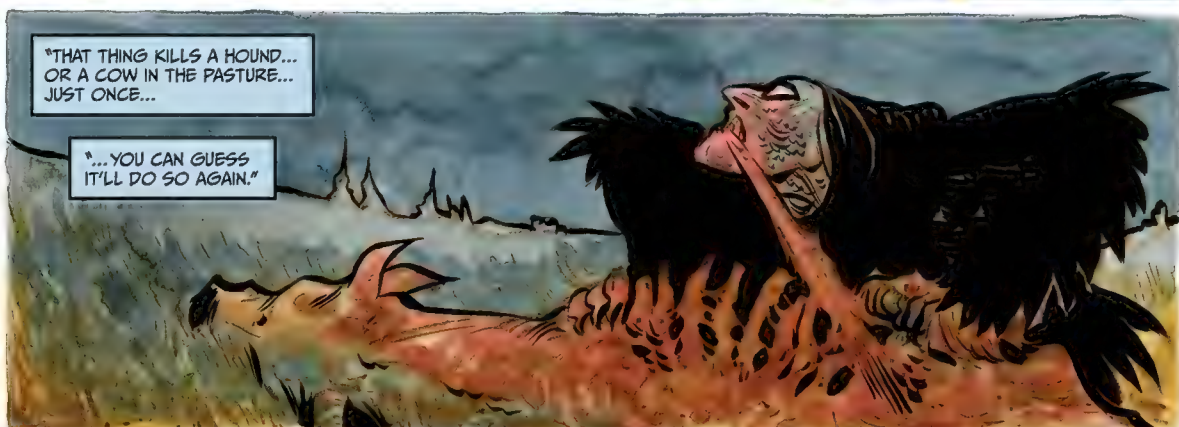
AND THESE
HAINTS OF YOURS
ARE RUNNING
WILD!



THEY'RE
NOT MY
HAINTS.









AND WHAT ABOUT
PRISCILLA?
WHAT ABOUT
HER KIN?



YOU SAID THEY
WEREN'T ALWAYS
HARMLESS.



THERE WAS A TIME THOSE
HOBGOBLINS WERE TRICKSTERS
OF THE CRUELEST SORT...

...NEVER SATISFIED
UNLESS THEIR PRANKS
CAUSED PAIN.



MY COUSIN HAROLD
SAID HE LOST THESE THREE
FINGERS TO A GOBLIN THAT
WAS WAITING IN A WOODPILE
TO SCARE HIM.

AND THAT KIND OF
MISCHIEVOUSNESS IS
IN THEIR NATURE...

...IN THEIR
BLOOD.



SOONER OR LATER,
THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO
HELP THEMSELVES BUT
TURN NASTY ONCE
MORE.



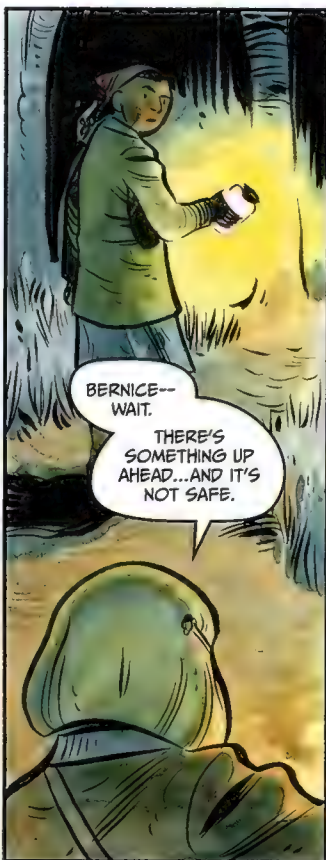
COME ON.

WE'RE CLOSE
NOW.



...TAKE CARE...

...DANGER...
HHHHHERE...



BERNICE--
WAIT.

THERE'S
SOMETHING UP
AHEAD...AND IT'S
NOT SAFE.



EVEN
THE GOBLINS
SENSE IT...

...AND WHATEVER
IT IS WORRIES
THEM.



MAYBE YOU...
SHOULD LET ME
GO FIRST.

OH, EMMY.

YOU WEREN'T
LISTENING TO A
WORD I SAID,
WERE YOU?



I HAVE TO
LEARN TO SEE
THINGS THROUGH
BY MYSELF.



WAIT FOR ME!
I'M COMING!

I SAID I'D
PROTECT YOU...
...AND
THAT'S WHAT
I'LL DO.



IT'S ALL RIGHT,
PRISCILLA.

I'LL BE
JUST FINE.

YOU CAN
WAIT RIGHT HERE
IF THAT SUITS
YOU.



WHY ARE
WE HERE,
BERNICE?

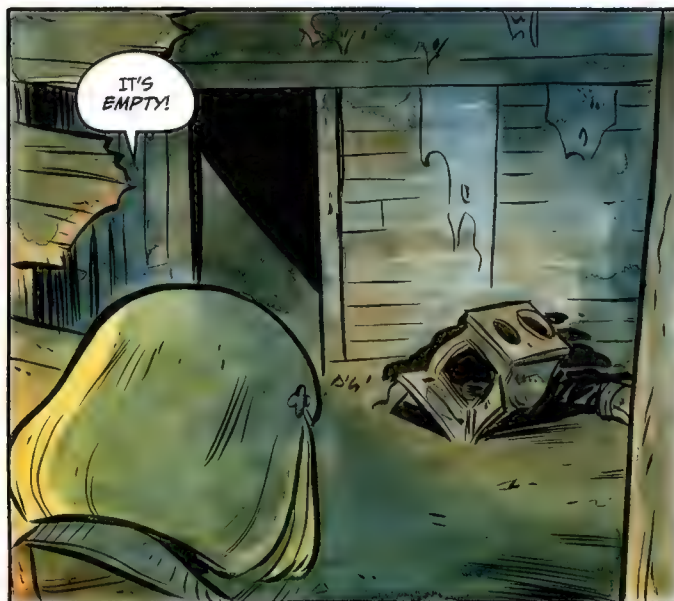
WHAT SORT
OF HAUNT WILL
WE FIND
INSIDE?



IT'S A
TERRIBLE
THING...

...POWERFUL...
AND FULL OF
RAGE.

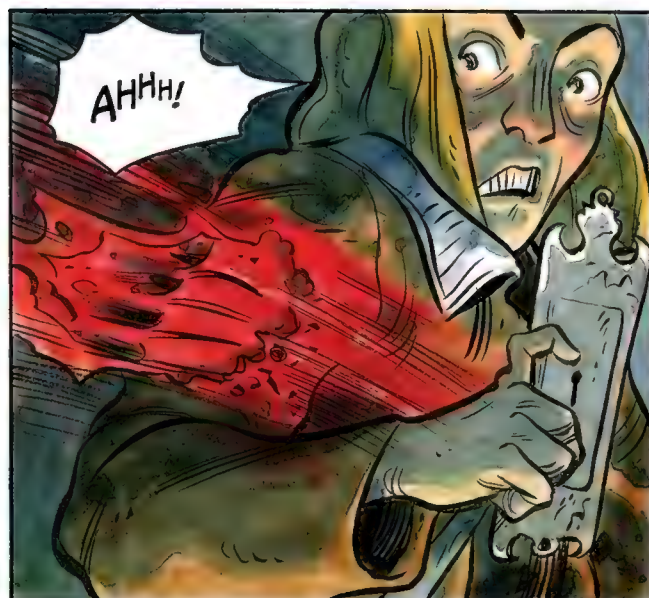














FIND HIM,
EMMY!
ONCE YOU
FIND HIM, I
CAN--



CLACK!



EMMY--I NEED
YOU TO WATCH
HIM.

YOU SHOW
YOURSELF!

YOU COME
ON OUT RIGHT
THIS INSTANT!



YOU OUGHT TO
BE ASHAMED OF
YOURSELF, ATTACKING
PEOPLE LIKE THAT!

WHAT DO
YOU HAVE TO SAY
FOR YOURSELF?



YOU CAN
SEE ME?





ALL RIGHT,
THEN.

YOU MUST ALSO
KNOW THAT I CAN'T
ALLOW SOMETHING LIKE
THAT TO COME TO
PASS.



YOU'RE
PLANNING ON
HURTING PEOPLE.



YOU'VE GOT AN
ILL INTENT FOR
THE WORLD.



SO MAYBE
WE NEED TO
FIGURE OUT--



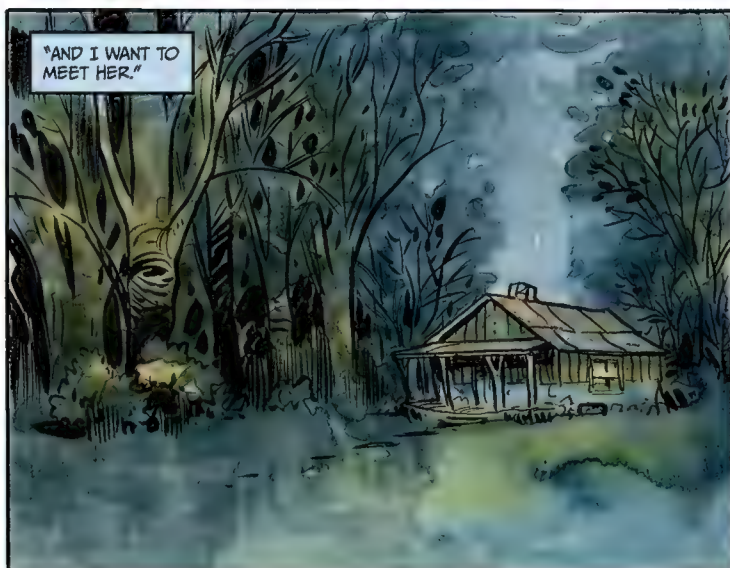
THERE AIN'T
NOTHING TO
FIGURE OUT.

THERE'S NO
PLACE FOR A CREATURE
LIKE THIS OUT IN
THE WORLD.



YOU DON'T
BELONG AMONG
THE NATURAL
WORLD.







LOVEY?

... BUT SHE ALWAYS THOUGHT SHE'D HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME BEFORE THAT DARK DAY DAWNED.



23

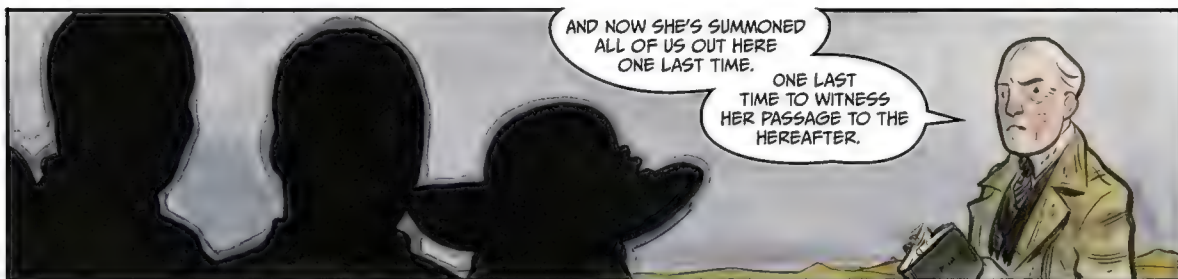
TWENTY-THREE

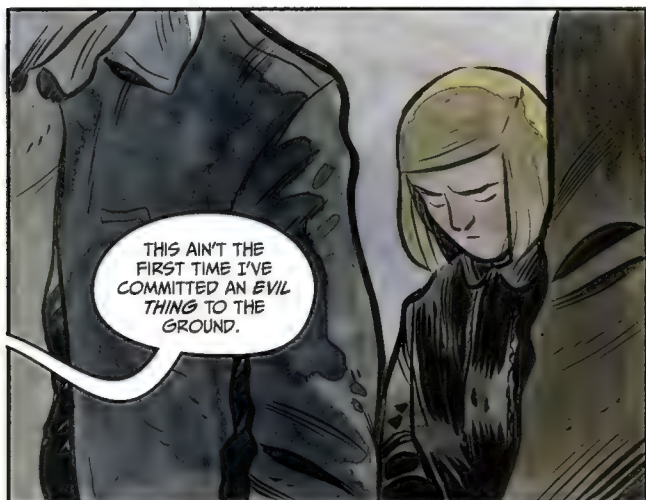
WE'VE ALL
HEARD STORIES ABOUT
OLD LADY LOVEY.

WE'VE ALL
HEARD TELL HOW SHE
WAS A WITCH.

WE'VE ALL HEARD
HOW SHE WOULD CALL
OUT IN THE DEAD OF THE
NIGHT AND DRAW WEAK-WILLED
PREY INTO THE WOODS
FOR SOME DARK
PURPOSE.







THIS AIN'T THE FIRST TIME I'VE COMMITTED AN EVIL THING TO THE GROUND.



IF WE LIVE TO THE LORD, THEN WE WILL DIE TO THE LORD.

BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIE IN THE LORD.

THEY WILL REST FROM THEIR LABOR, FOR THEIR DEEDS WILL FOLLOW THEM.



BUT IF WE LIVE IN SERVICE OF DARK POWERS...
...THEN YOU AIN'T EVER TRULY ALIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND WE MUST BE CAREFUL, Y'ALL.



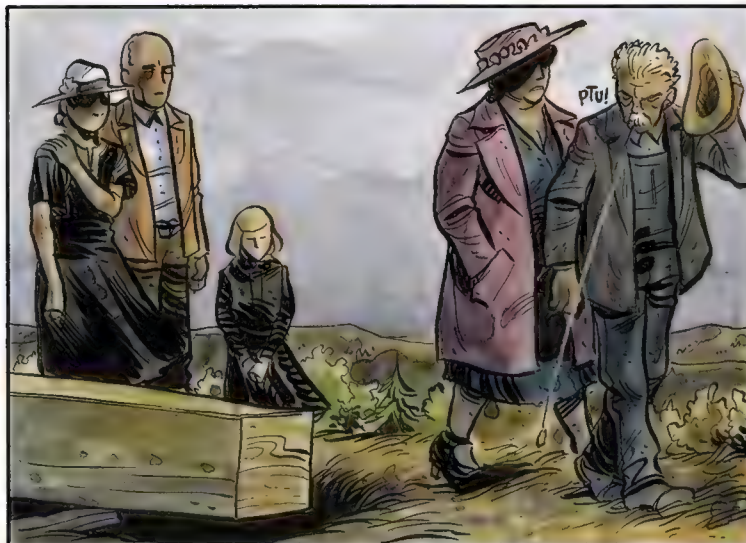
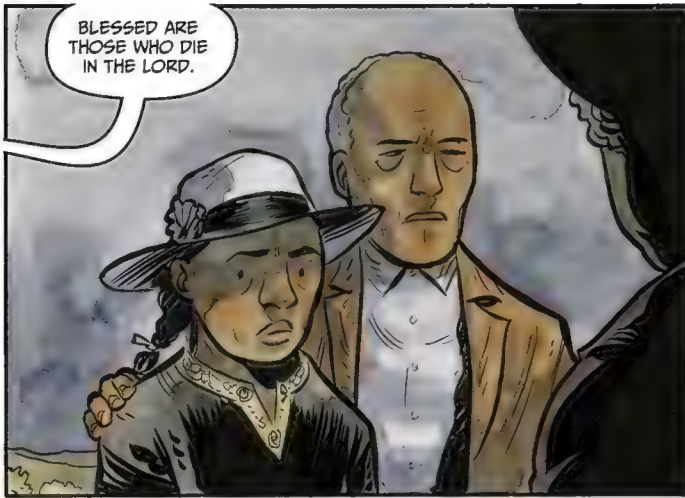
I CAN BLESS THIS GROUND.

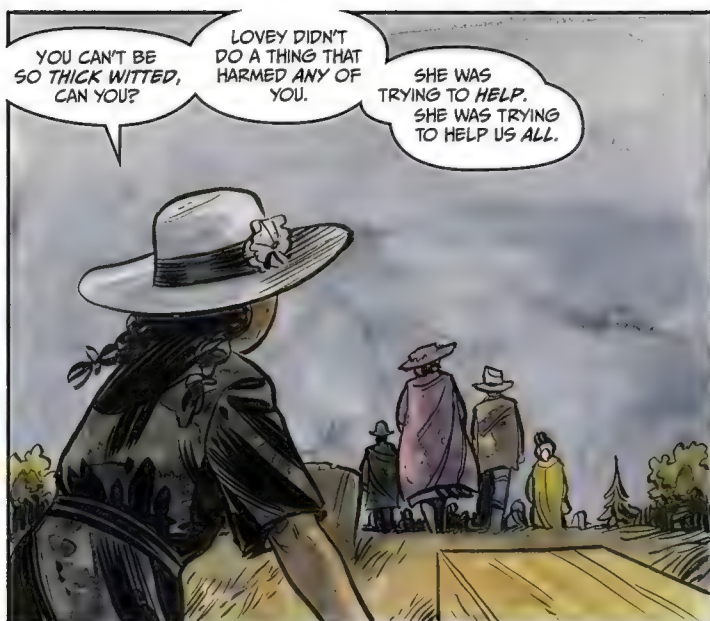
I CAN CAST A WITCH'S SPIRIT INTO SHADOW.

BUT WE WON'T NEVER BE RID OF HER...



...NOT AS LONG AS SHE IS MOURNED.





YOU CAN'T BE
SO THICK WITTED,
CAN YOU?

LOVEY DIDN'T
DO A THING THAT
HARMED ANY OF
YOU.

SHE WAS
TRYING TO HELP.
SHE WAS TRYING
TO HELP US ALL.



SHE WAS...
DIFFERENT.
SHE LIVED
OFF BY HERSELF.

SHE WAS MEAN
AND SHE LIKED MOST
FOLKS ABOUT AS
MUCH AS THEY
LIKED HER.

BUT
SHE WASN'T
EVIL.



BERNICE...

...I DON'T
THINK THEY'RE
LISTENING.

NO!

I'M NOT JUST
GONNA LET THEM TALK
ABOUT HER LIKE SHE
WAS SOME SORT
OF--



HAINT.



OH.



AAH/EEEE!

GET
OUT OF THE
WAY!



SNAKES. DOZENS OF THEM.

MAYBE MORE.

FOR YEARS, OLD LADY LOVEY HAD PROTECTED HARROW FROM THESE SERPENTS.



BERNICE--

THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM!

SHE HAD COLLECTED THEM IN MASON JARS AND STORED THEM IN HER CELLAR.



BUT WHEN THE OLD WOMAN HAD DIED, THE SNAKES HAD ESCAPED.

AND NOW THEY TOILED ABOUT THEIR MALEVOLENT BUSINESS ONCE MORE.



THE BIBLE DIDN'T TELL WHAT KIND OF SNAKE HAD SLITHERED ITS WAY INTO THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

BUT ANYONE WHO'D EVER STUMBLED ACROSS A COTTONMOUTH...ANYONE WHO'D LOOKED INTO THOSE COLD AND DARTING EYES...COULD CAST AN EDUCATED GUESS.



AND LIKE THE BIBLICAL SERPENT,
THESE COTTONMOUTHS WERE
TEMPTERS AND CORRUPTORS.

BUT THEY DID NOT SERVE THE
DEVIL, NOR WERE THEY DEMONS
TAKING EARTHLY FORM.



THEY SERVED THE DEAD
WITCH *HESTER BECK*.



THEY WERE *HESTER'S*
EVIL COME TO LIFE.

HER VILE THOUGHTS...
HER TERRIBLE HOPES
AND DREAMS...STILL
AT WORK EVEN THOUGH
SHE WAS GONE TO ROT.



IF THEY FOUND PURCHASE
IN THE FLESH OF THE LIVING...

...SO TOO WOULD
HESTER'S MALICE
TAKE HOLD.











THEY CALL DRAGONFLIES
"SNAKE DOCTORS" IN
HARROW COUNTY.

WHEN YOU SEE ONE, YOU CAN
BE SURE A SNAKE'S LURKING
SOMEWHERE NEARBY.



EMMY MIGHT NOT HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO BANISH
THE SNAKES...

...BUT SHE COULD CONTROL
THE SNAKE DOCTORS.



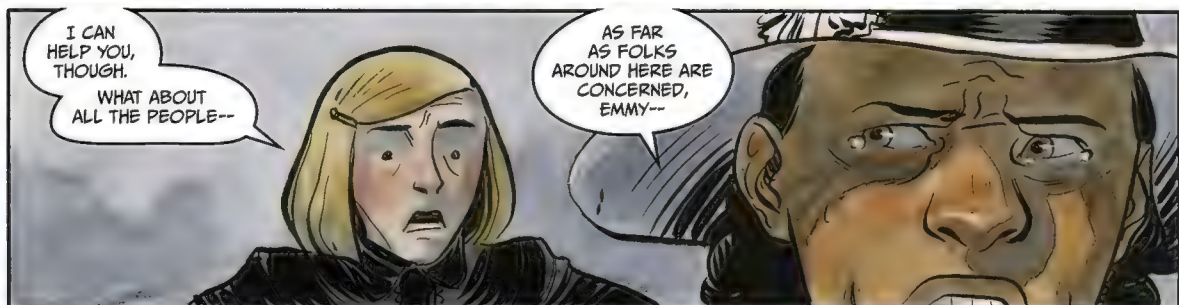
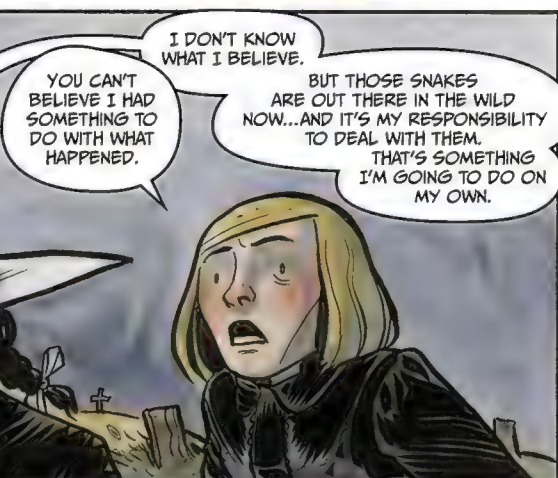
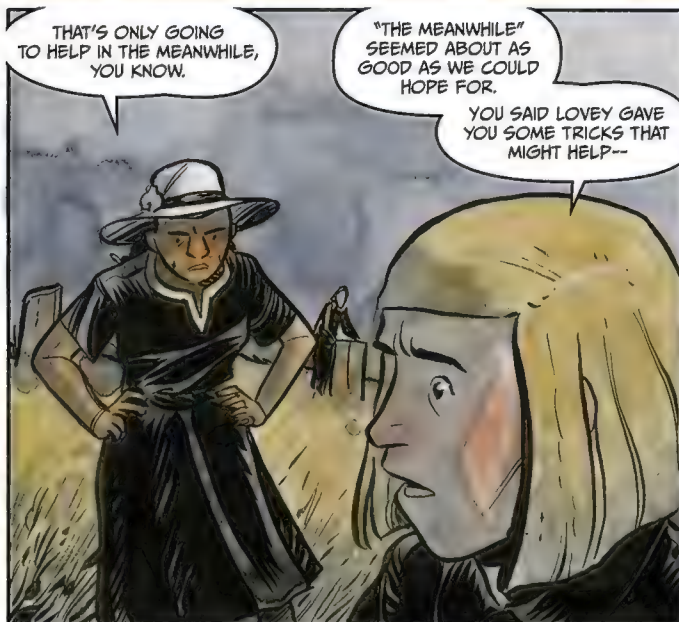
SHE CALLED THEM
FROM THE FAR CORNERS
OF THE WOODS...

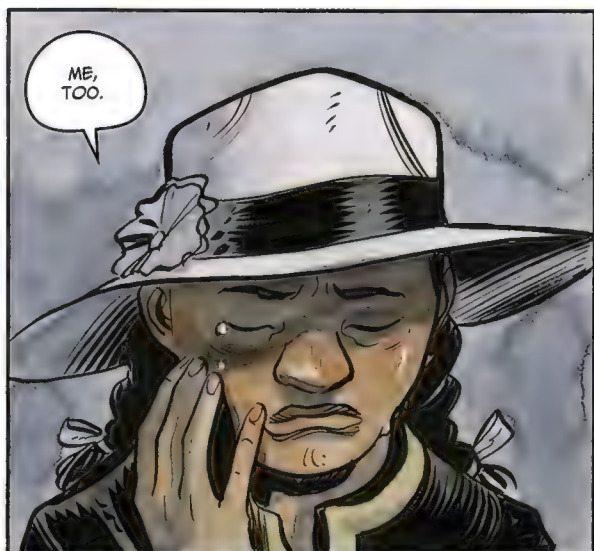
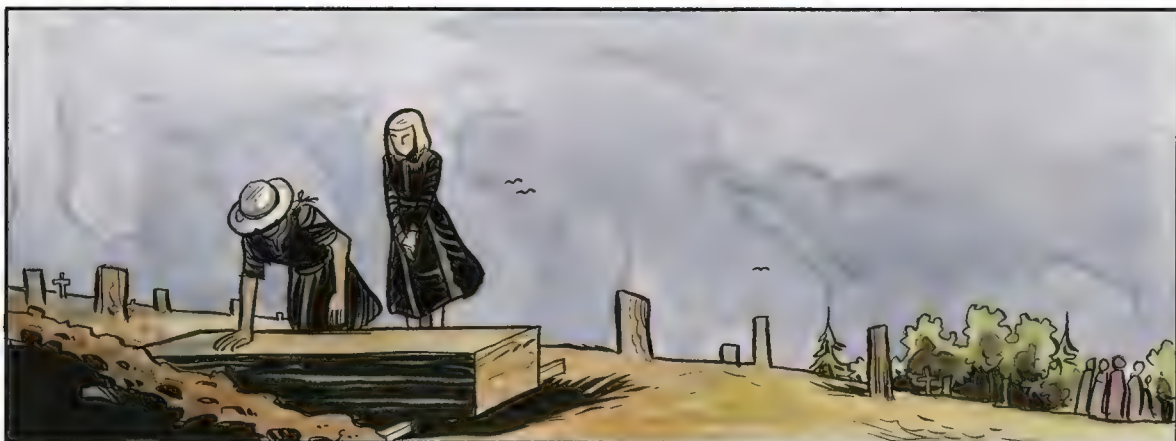
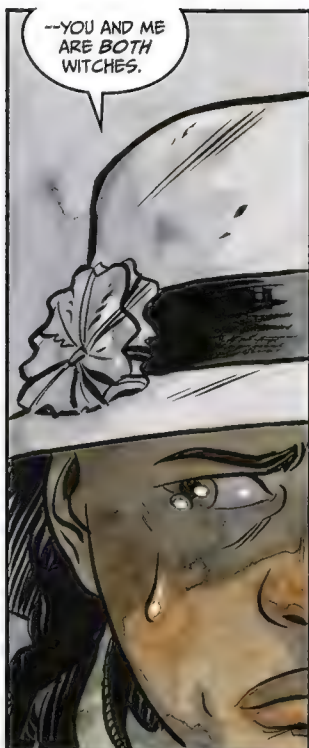
...CALLED THEM BY
THE HUNDREDS...



...THEN SENT THEM AWAY...

...AND THE SNAKES--NATURAL
CREATURE ENOUGH TO HONOR
THE ANCIENT CODES--







"I'M SORRY, TOO."

WITH EVERY STEP
BERNICE GREW MORE
AND MORE WEARY.



SHE KNEW SHE HAD TO
GET BACK TO LOVEY'S
RAMSHACKLE HOME.

THERE, SHE'D FIND
EVERYTHING SHE
NEEDED TO HUNT
DOWN THOSE SNAKES.



BUT A TERRIBLE THOUGHT HAD
ROOTED IN HER MIND...

...JUST AS ONE OF
THOSE COTTONMOUTHS
WOULD BURROW INTO
ITS VICTIM'S HEAD.



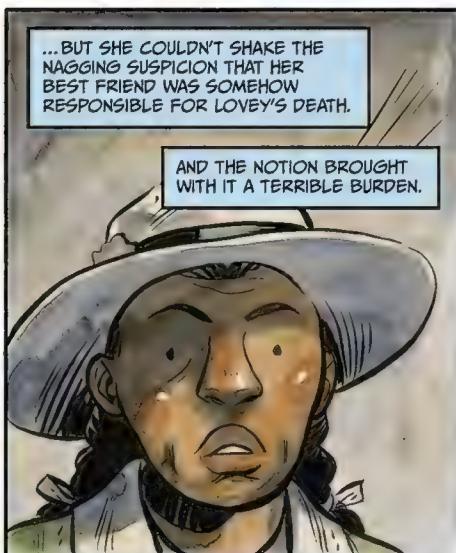
SHE HATED HERSELF FOR
FEELING THE WAY SHE DID.

BUT SHE COULDN'T
HELP IT.



EMMY DENIED IT...

...AND BERNICE WANTED
TO BELIEVE HER...



...BUT SHE COULDN'T SHAKE THE
NAGGING SUSPICION THAT HER
BEST FRIEND WAS SOMEHOW
RESPONSIBLE FOR LOVEY'S DEATH.

AND THE NOTION BROUGHT
WITH IT A TERRIBLE BURDEN.





YOU WERE AT
THE FUNERAL.



I SUPPOSE
I WAS.

NOT ALL
OF US WERE
THERE TO CAST
ASPERSIONS.

SOME OF US...
STILL REMEMBER.



SOME OF US
KNOW LOVEY WEREN'T
NO WITCH.



IF N SHE WAS,
SHE WEREN'T THE
TYPE TO MEAN
NO HARM.



WE USED TO COME
OUT HERE FROM TIME
TO TIME, EACH AND EVERY
ONE OF US.

HELL...MOST OF US
COULDN'T WAIT FOR EACH WEEK
TO BE OVER, JUST SO WE COULD
PAY LOVEY A VISIT.



LOVEY TOLD ME
ABOUT THOSE
DAYS.

WE WERE
ALL WELCOMED
HERE...
...WELCOMED
FOR A DRINK...

...WELCOMED
FOR A DANCE.



"THIS WAS A GOOD PLACE."



AND LOVEY
WAS A GOOD
WOMAN.

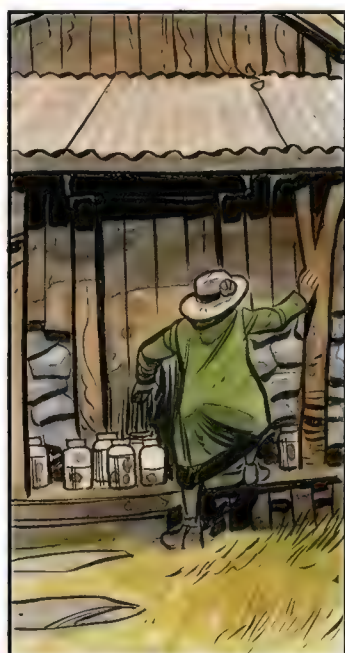


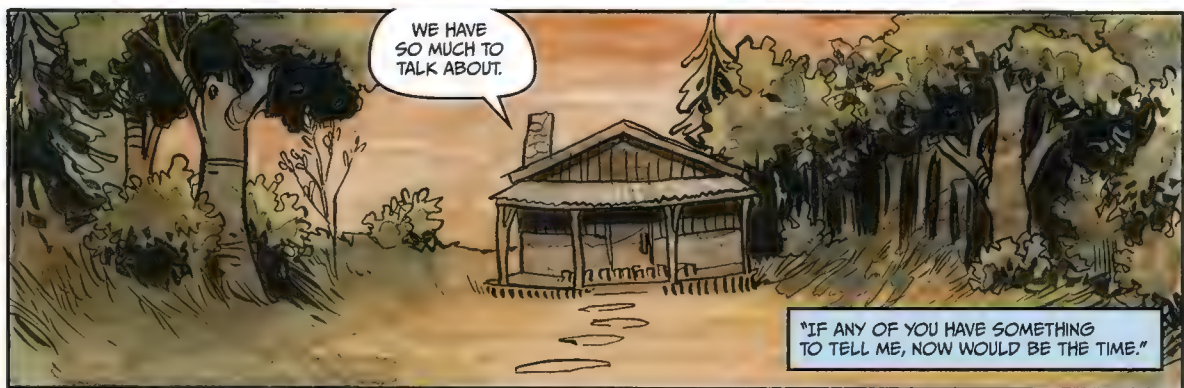
EVEN WHEN
WE TURNED
AGAINST HER...

...SHE WAS
A FRIEND TO
US ALL.



SHE STOOD
BY US WHEN NO
ONE WOULD STAND
BY HER.







IF ANY OF
YOU HURT THAT
OLD WOMAN...

...I NEED
YOU TO TELL
ME.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT WE'RE
GOING TO DO
ABOUT IT...

...BUT I CAN'T
EVEN BEGIN TO
FIGURE THAT OUT
WITHOUT THE
TRUTH.



I
DIDN'T THINK
SO.



HHHHH

WHAT
IS IT?
HAVE YOU
GOT SOMETHING
TO SAY?



...NO HAIT...

...SOMETHING
ELSE...
...SOMETHING
WORSE...



YOU'RE
BACK.

WHAT
IS IT?

WHAT DID
YOU FIND?



...GONE...

...GONE LIKE IT
HAD NEVER BEEN
THERE...



...BUT SOMETHING
CAME THIS WAY...

...CAME FROM
OUTSIDE HHHHARROW...

...CAN SMELL
IT...

...TROD ALONG
HHHHIDDEN PATHS TO
GET HHHHERE...



YOU THINK
IT'S HER, DON'T
YOU?

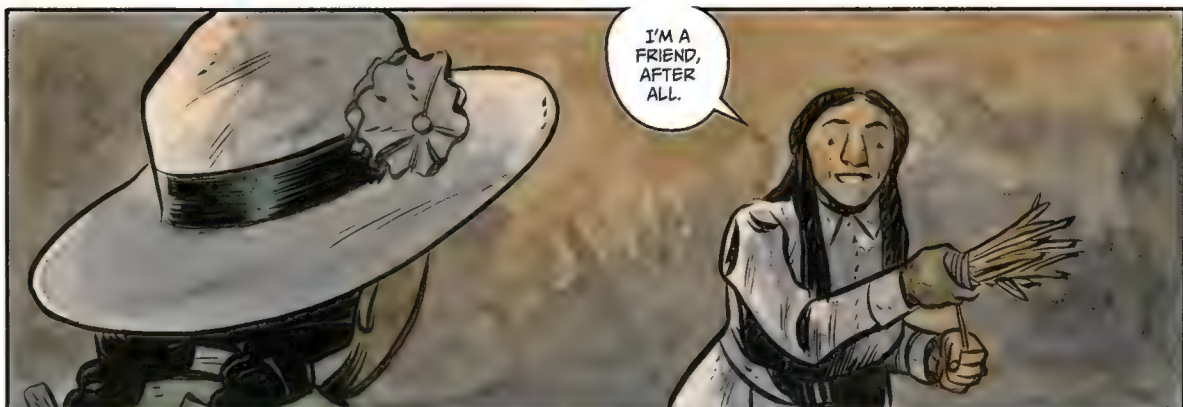
YOU
THINK...

...IT WAS
KAMMI WHO
KILLED
LOVEY.



DON'T
YOU?

"IT'S ALL RIGHT, CHILD. I'M
NOT GOING TO HURT YOU."



I'M A
FRIEND,
AFTER
ALL.



A
FRIEND?



THAT'S
RIGHT.

I WAS
A FRIEND
TO LOVEY.



I CAN
BE YOUR
FRIEND,
TOO.



WHAT
ARE YOU
MAKING?

I'M
SURE LOVEY
MENTIONED
ME.

I TAUGHT
HER HOW TO
FORAGE FOR
SPECIAL
INGREDIENTS...

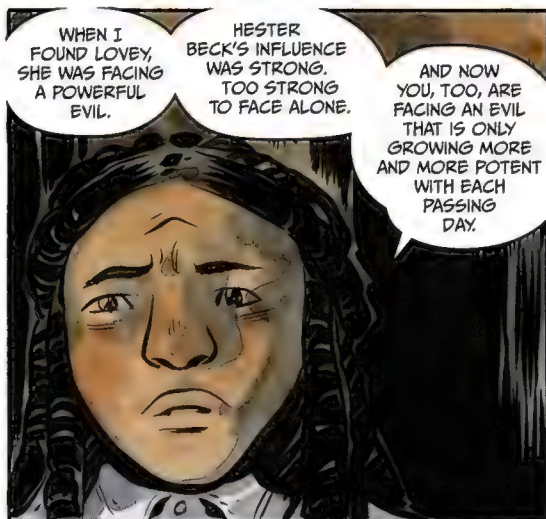
...LEARNED
HER ABOUT THE
HIDDEN MAGIC TO
BE FOUND IN THE
WOODS...



...HOW TO
BRAID ONIONS TO
WARD OFF EVIL...

...HOW TO
USE PURSLANE TO
KEEP GHOSTS
AT BAY...

...HOW TO
BANISH A SPIRIT
BY BURYING
A TATER...





ED
TWENTY-FOUR

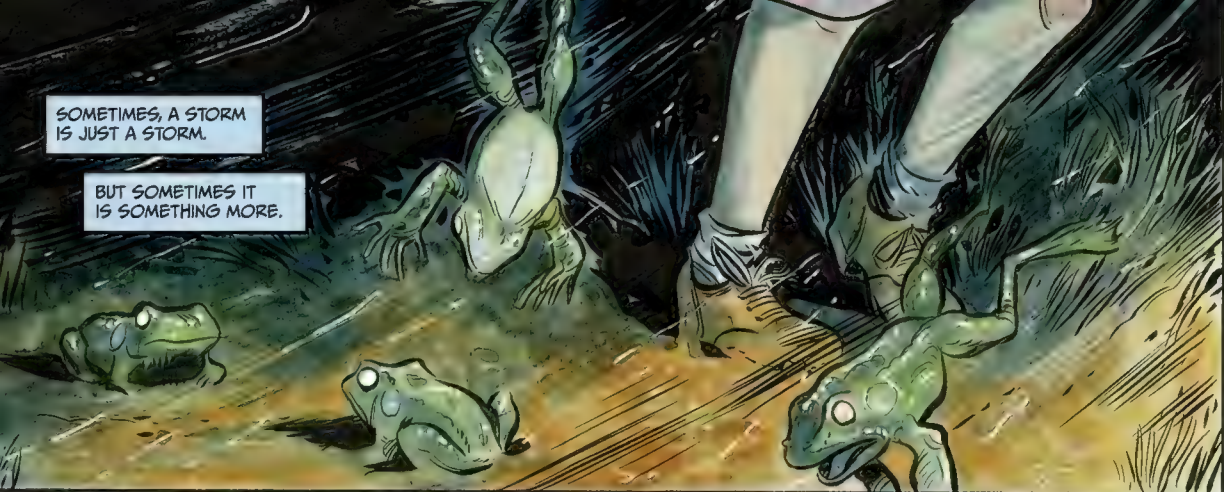
DOWN HARROW COUNTY WAY, YOUNG'UNS DUCK QUICK
UNDER HEAVY QUILTS WHEN THE RAIN COMES DOWN IN
SHEETS AND THE THUNDER CRASHES AND THE
HOWLING WIND RATTLES THE SHUTTERS.

"HUSH NOW, CHILD,"
A MAMA MIGHT SAY.

"BE STILL. IT'S
ONLY A STORM."

BUT THEY KNOW BETTER.





SOMETIMES, A STORM
IS JUST A STORM.

BUT SOMETIMES IT
IS SOMETHING MORE.



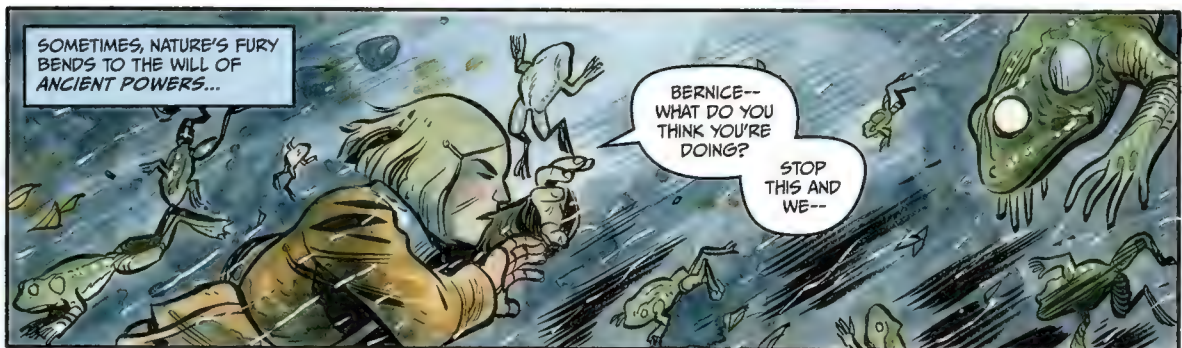
SOMETIMES, PECULIAR THINGS
SWEEP IN WITH THE DOWNPOUR.



SOMETIMES, THE RAIN AND WIND
AND LIGHTNING STIR BECAUSE
OF OTHERWORLDLY FORCES
CLASHING WITH ONE ANOTHER.

I'M SORRY,
EMMY! I REALLY
AM!

BUT YOU'VE
GONE AND BROUGHT
THIS ON YOURSELF!



SOMETIMES, NATURE'S FURY
BENDS TO THE WILL OF
ANCIENT POWERS...

BERNICE--
WHAT DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
DOING?

STOP
THIS AND
WE--



AHH!
IT
BURNS!

...FORCES BEYOND THE
RECKONING OF MANKIND'S
UNDERSTANDING...



H-HOW...

...HOW
DID YOU...

...EVEN IF THOSE POWERS ARE IN THE HANDS
OF THOSE WHO ARE NOT MUCH OLDER THAN
THOSE CHILDREN COWERING IN THEIR BEDS.





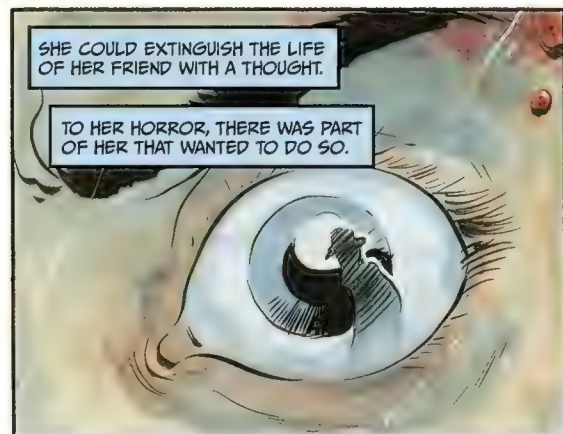
AND SOMETIMES LIGHTNING
WAS CALLED WITCH'S FIRE...

...CALLED DOWN FROM
HEAVEN AND UP FROM
HELL TO FUEL DARK
SORCERIES...



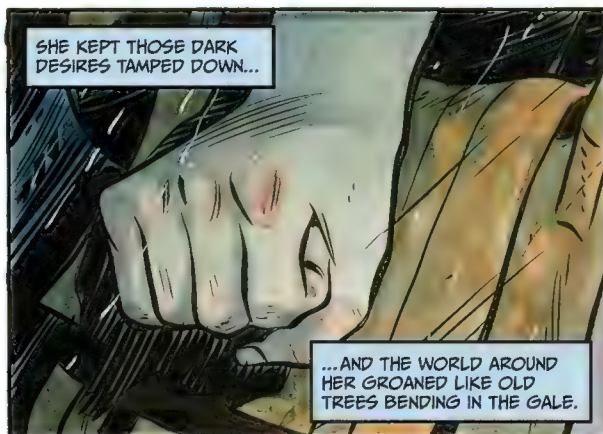
...BUT TONIGHT THE FIRE WAS
NOT UNLEASHED AT EMMY'S WILL.

INSTEAD, THE THUNDERBOLTS
STRUCK DOWN AS EMMY
STRUGGLED TO REPRESS
HER TRUE POWER.



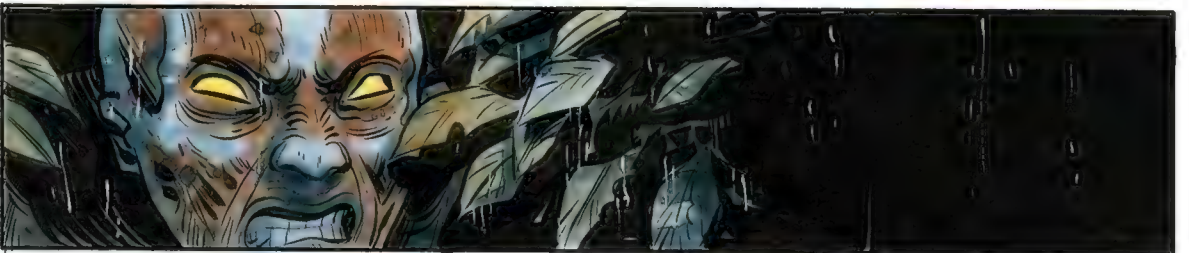
SHE COULD EXTINGUISH THE LIFE
OF HER FRIEND WITH A THOUGHT.

TO HER HORROR, THERE WAS PART
OF HER THAT WANTED TO DO SO.



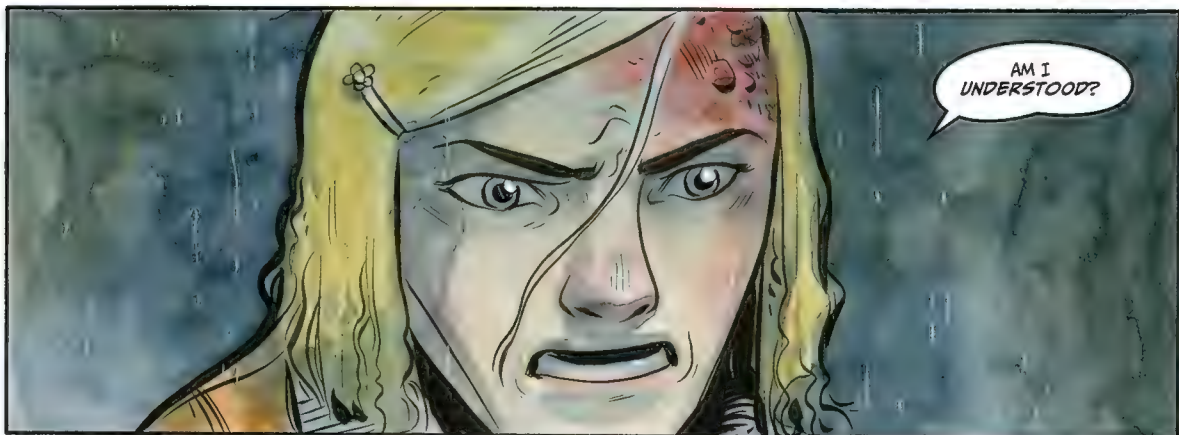
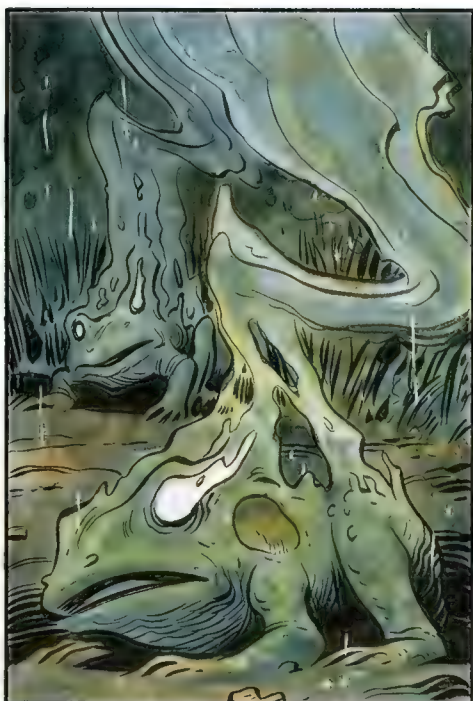
SHE KEPT THOSE DARK
DESIRES TAMPED DOWN...

...AND THE WORLD AROUND
HER GROANED LIKE OLD
TREES BENDING IN THE GALE.













SOMETHING'S
NOT RIGHT.

SOMEONE'S
TRICKED HER.
SOMEONE'S
GOTTEN INTO HER
HEAD.



SHE THINKS I'VE
DONE SOMETHING
AWFUL.

SHE THINKS
I'M RESPONSIBLE
FOR TERRIBLE
THINGS.

BUT I'M
NOT.



I'M NOT.



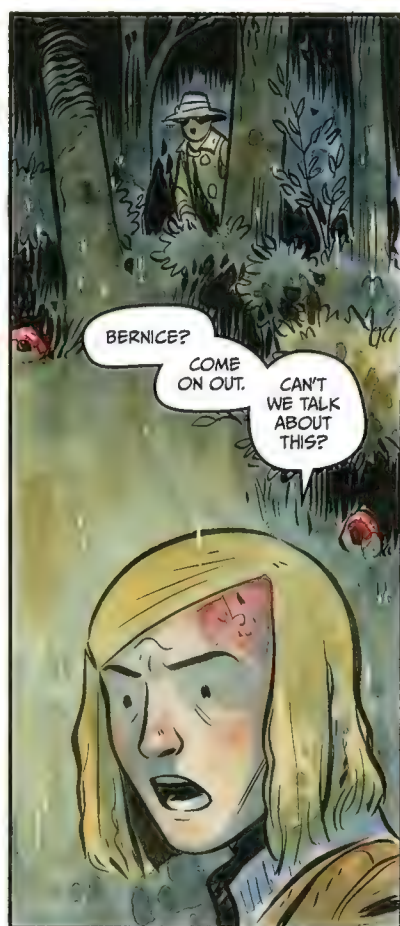
GO BACK
TO YOUR HIDING
PLACES.

NO MORE
HUNTING.
ARE YOU
LISTENING?



I DON'T MEAN
TO BE UGLY...

...BUT DON'T
LET ME CATCH YOU
DISOBEYING ME.





NUH--



WHAT WAS THAT?

YOU FELT THAT, TOO, RIGHT?



IS THAT... BLOOD?



MY BLOOD.



THAT'S HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO HURT ME.

THAT'S HOW SHE HAS POWER OVER ME.

SHE USED MY BLOOD AGAINST ME.



THAT'S RIGHT,
AND I'M SORRY.

I HOPE
YOU BELIEVE
ME.

I NEVER WANTED
TO HURT YOU...
BUT THERE'S NO
OTHER WAY.



I GATHERED UP
YOUR BLOOD... FROM
THE OLD CABIN... WHERE
WE MET THE KEYHOLE
GHOST.

IT CUT YOU.
AND I WENT BACK FOR THE
BLOOD THAT DRIPPED TO
THE FLOOR.
I MIXED IT WITH
OIL AND BLACK SALT.

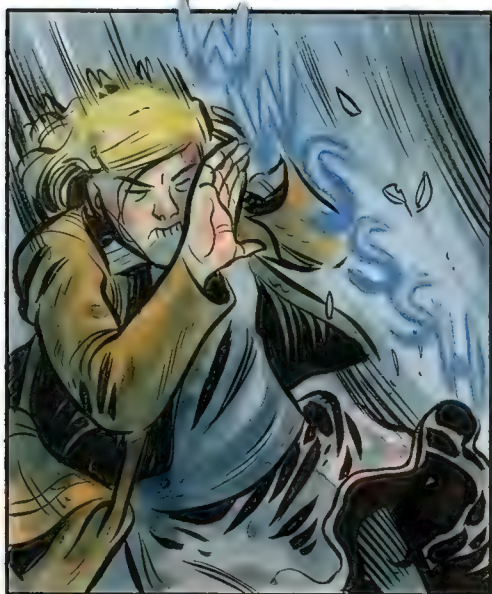


I DON'T THINK
A HAGSTONE CIRCLE
WOULD HOLD YOU, NOT
NORMALLY.

BUT WHEN
THE STONES ARE
SPRINKLED WITH
YOUR BLOOD, THEY
WORK JUST FINE.



HOW...
HOW
COULD
YOU?

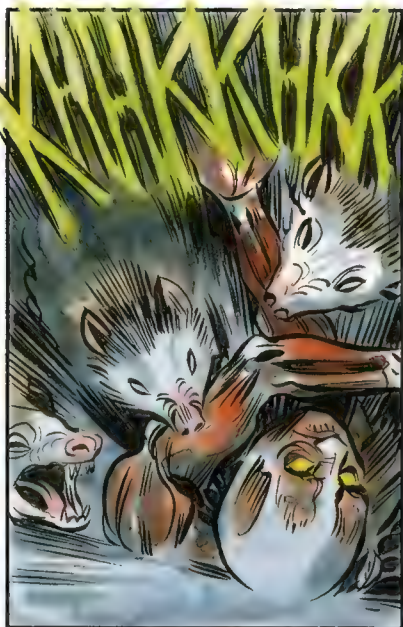


THIS CIRCLE
WON'T HOLD ME,
BERNICE.

I CAN'T
MOVE THE
STONES...

...BUT
HE CAN.











YOU GO ON AND BELIEVE WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT, CHILD.

THIS HERE AIN'T NO TRICK, THOUGH.

YOU LOOK LONG AND HARD, AND YOU'LL SEE IT'S TRUE.



I'VE COME BACK...

...JUST FOR THIS LITTLE BIT...

...TO TELL YOU TWO TO STOP THIS FOOLISHNESS.



IT WON'T YOUR FRIEND WHO DONE ME IN, BERNICE.

IT WON'T HER OR NONE OF HER HAINTS, NEITHER.

YOU BEEN PLAYED THE FOOL, CHILD, BY FORCES THAT BEEN PLAYING MORTALS FOR FOOLS SINCE BEFORE THE FLOOD, I RECKON.



I THOUGHT...

...SINCE WE WERE HUNTING HAINTS...

...THEY MAYBE--



AIN'T NO HAINT GONNA KILL ME.



I THINK I KNOW.

I THINK I KNOW WHO DID THIS.



YOU WOULD THINK THAT, WOULDN'T YOU, CHILD?

YOU'D THINK IT, AND YOU'D BE WRONG.



YOU'RE MIGHTY POWERFUL, CHILD, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

BUT YOU AIN'T BUT BARELY GROWN.

AND YOU DON'T KNOW NEAR AS MUCH AS YOU THINK YOU OUGHT TO.



THE ONE WHO KILLED ME... I DIDN'T EVER THINK I'D BE BETRAYED BY HER.

IT WAS HER THAT CAME TO ME SO LONG AGO.

SHE TAUGHT ME HOW TO CONJURE.

IN THE END, THOUGH, I WON'T NOTHING BUT A TOOL FOR HER TO USE.



IT WAS ODESSA.

IT WAS... MY FAMILY.



NOW YOU'RE FIGURING IT OUT.

YOU BOTH BEEN BAMBOOZLED.



ODESSA... AND THOSE LIKE YOU... SET YOU AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS.

THEY DIDN'T WANT EITHER ONE OF YOU CATCHING WIND OF WHAT THEY WERE REALLY UP TO.

NOW, HARROW COUNTY'S GONNA NEED YOU TO SET THINGS RIGHT.



HARROW'S GONNA NEED YOU BOTH...

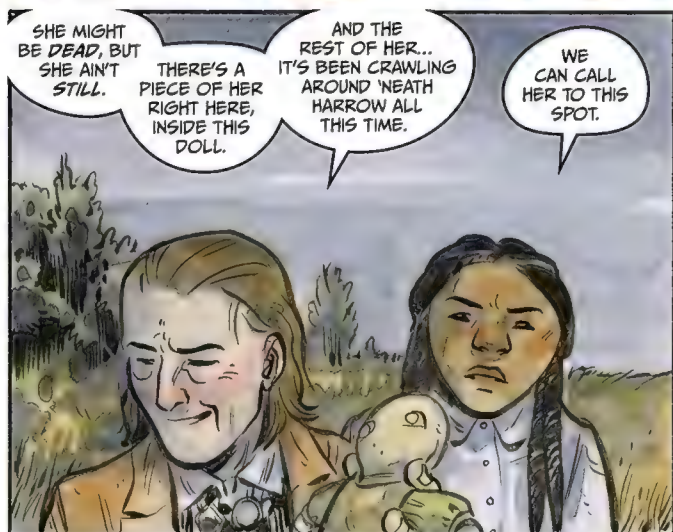


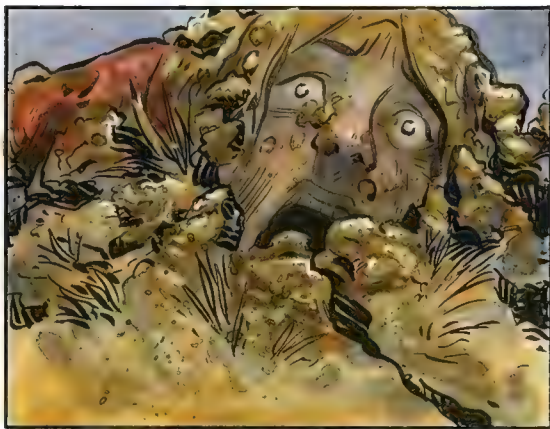
... BEFORE IT'S ALL SAID...




... AND DONE.









A person is shown buried in a dark, rocky, and cavernous environment. The person is lying on their back, with their head and upper torso visible. They are wearing a red shirt and dark pants. The ground around them is dark and textured, with numerous glowing yellow roots or veins extending upwards from the person's head and torso. The overall atmosphere is dark and mysterious.

HOW LONG?

FOR HOW LONG HAD
KAMMI BEEN BANISHED
NEATH THE EARTH...

...BURIED LIKE THE
FRAGMENTS OF A
SHATTERED MIRROR...

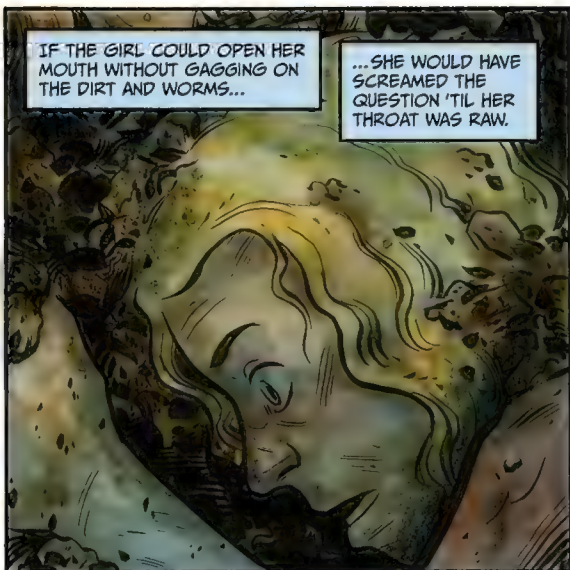
...A SYMBOL OF ILL FORTUNE
CONSECRATED TO THE GROUND
IN HOPES OF BREAKING SOME
FOUL SPELL?

HOW LONG?



IF THE GIRL COULD OPEN HER MOUTH WITHOUT GAGGING ON THE DIRT AND WORMS...

...SHE WOULD HAVE SCREAMED THE QUESTION 'TIL HER THROAT WAS RAW.



IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN YEARS.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONLY A FEW MINUTES.



IT FELT LIKE FOREVER.



SHE HAD ONLY WANTED TO KNOW THE SISTER FROM WHOM SHE HAD BEEN ESTRANGED FOR SO LONG.



LOVE AND LONGING HAD BROUGHT HER TO HARROW COUNTY.



AND SHE HAD BEEN PUNISHED FOR IT.

HER FEAR AND HER GRIEF SEEDED
THE WORLD ABOVE WITH THE
PROFANE MANIFESTATIONS...

...SHADOWS OF HER
HOPELESSNESS...

...BIRTHED IN THE WORLD SHE
SO DESPERATELY SOUGHT...

...BUT COULD
NOT FIND.

NOT "HOW LONG"?

BUT "IS THIS HELL"?

UNTIL THE NIGHT SHE
FELT A CALLING...

...A BEACON GUIDING
HER TO THE SURFACE
ONCE AGAIN.

HOW LONG?

LONG ENOUGH THAT A
HUNGER FOR A CRUEL
AND BLOODY VENGEANCE
HAD ROOTED DEEP
IN HER HEART.

AND WHILE THIS WAS THE
WORLD OF THE LIVING,
NOT THE DEAD...

...SHE WOULD TURN
HARROW INTO HELL
BEFORE SHE WAS
THROUGH.



WE NEED
TO HURRY.
IT MIGHT
ALREADY BE
TOO LATE...



...BUT WE
SHOULD HURRY JUST
THE SAME.

WE'LL BE
ON OUR WAY
DIRECTLY.

IT TAKES TIME
GATHERING THESE SUPPLIES,
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE
LOVEY DIDN'T ORGANIZE
ANYTHING.

AND I CAN'T
JUST WAVE MY
HAND AND CALL
DOWN WRATH AND
FIRE AND BRIMSTONE
LIKE YOU.

SPEAKING OF...
WHY IS IT YOU SEEM
SO UNEASY?



I THINK I
MIGHT KNOW WHAT
MY FAMILY...

...LEVI AND
ODESSA AND THE
OTHERS...

MIGHT
BE--



--GOD.



ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT,
EMMY?



I'M JUST
TIRED.

I NEED TO
SLEEP FOR A WEEK...
BUT THERE'S NO
TIME FOR THAT.
IT'S UP
TO US TO STOP
LEVI AND THE
OTHERS...



...AND I'M
NOT SURE
WE CAN.

YOU BEAT
THEM ONCE
BEFORE.

THAT'S WHAT
FRIGHTENS ME.

I DON'T THINK
THEY'D DARE COME
BACK UNLESS THEY THOUGHT
THEY COULD GET THE
BETTER OF ME.

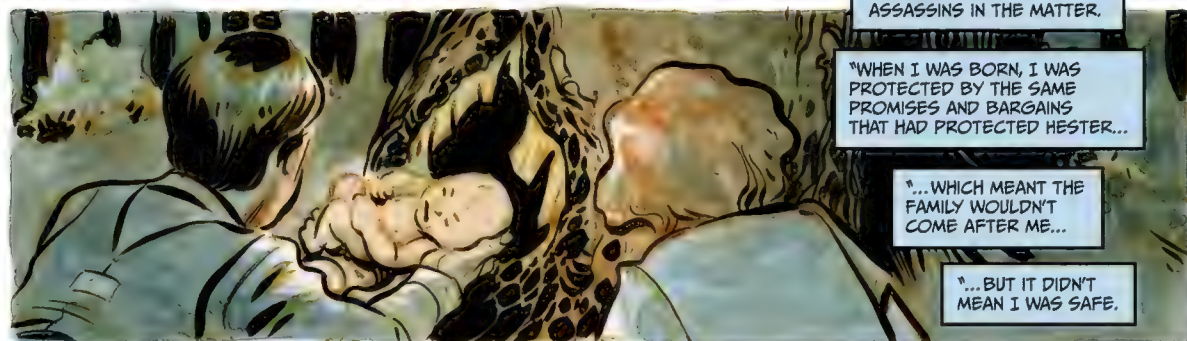
LOVEY SAID
THE FAMILY WAS UP
TO SOMETHING TERRIBLE,
AND I MIGHT HAVE AN
INKLING ABOUT WHAT
THAT MEANS.



*THEY'VE BEEN HAUNTING
THESE PARTS SINCE BEFORE
HESTER BECK WAS KILLED.

*THEY HATED AND FEARED HER...
BUT THEY COULDN'T STRIKE AT HER
THEMSELVES BECAUSE OF SOME
WEIRD PACT THEY HAD MADE.

*IT MIGHT EVEN BE THAT
THEY USED THE PEOPLE
OF HARROW AS THEIR
ASSASSINS IN THE MATTER.



*WHEN I WAS BORN, I WAS
PROTECTED BY THE SAME
PROMISES AND BARGAINS
THAT HAD PROTECTED HESTER...

*...WHICH MEANT THE
FAMILY WOULDN'T
COME AFTER ME...

*...BUT IT DIDN'T
MEAN I WAS SAFE.



*MAMMA AND PA TOOK ME IN...
RAISED ME AS THEIR OWN...

*...BUT I KNOW THEY WORRIED
THAT I MIGHT BE HESTER'S
TERRIBLE EVIL REBORN.

*IT WAS THAT FEAR THAT
CAUSED MY MOTHER TO
LEAVE PA AND ME WHEN
I WAS JUST A BABY."



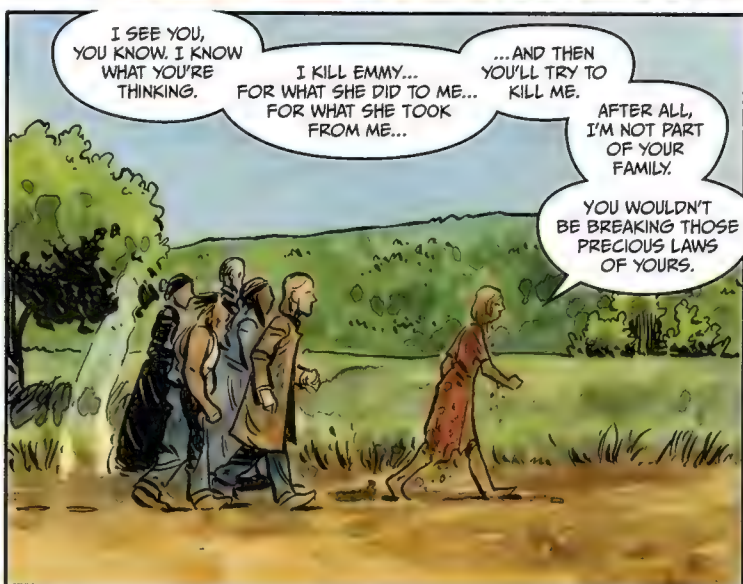
AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE
LEARNED, I HAVE TO WONDER
IF THE FAMILY WAS BEHIND
ALL THE FEAR.

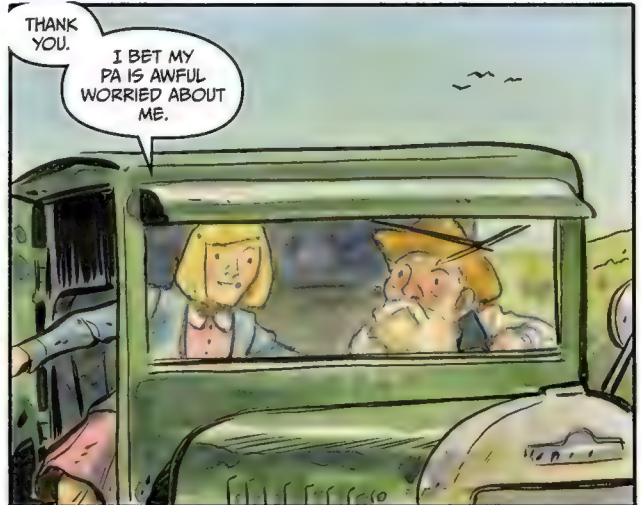
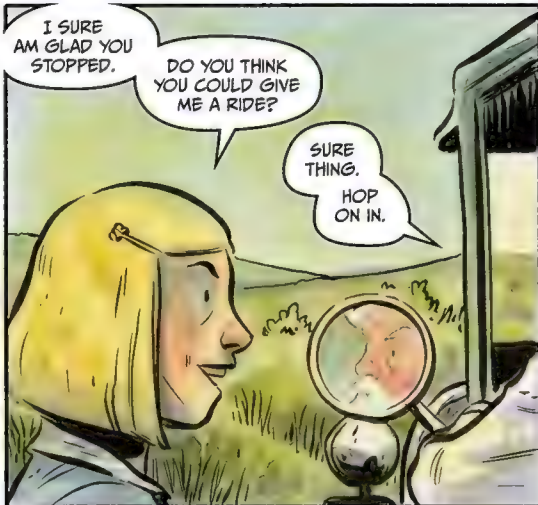
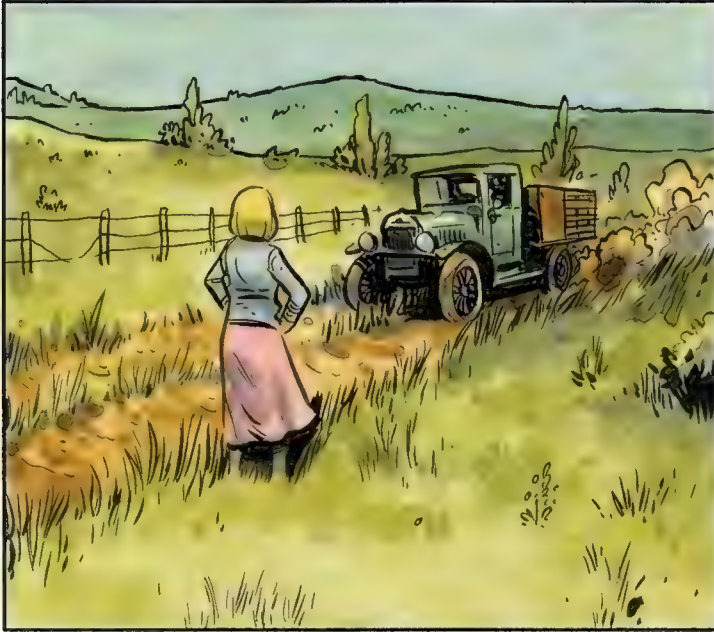
I WONDER
IF IT WAS THEM
THAT TURNED...

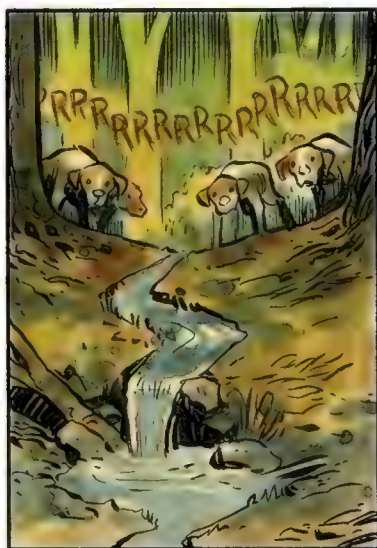




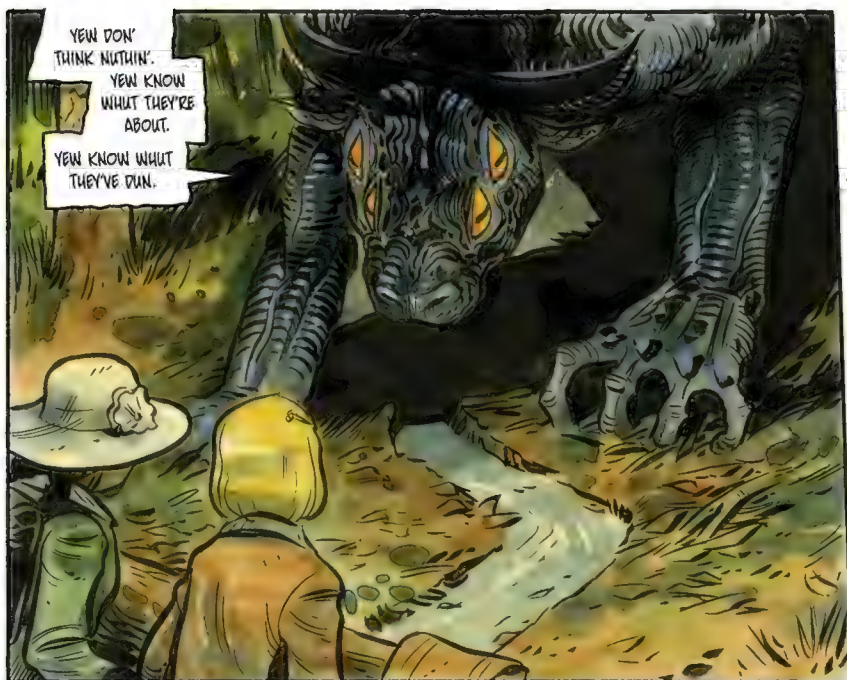












YEW DON'T
THINK NUTHIN'.
YEW KNOW
WHUT THEY'RE
ABOUT.
YEW KNOW WHUT
THEY'VE DUN.



THEY BRING
BACK YER SISTER.

THEY BRING HER BACK
TA DO AWAY WIT' YEW.

MORE'N LIKELY
WIT' ME, TOO.



ARE YOU
SAYING YOU ALREADY
KNEW?

ARE YOU
SAYING THEY'VE
ALREADY CALLED
HER UP?

I BURIED
HER. IT CAN'T
BE THAT EASY
TO--



WHO D'YEW THINK
THA' GIRL IS?

WHEN 'ESTER WUZ
LIT AFIRE, IT WUZ
TWO SPIRITS THA'
BURNED.

ONE OF THEM WUZ
AMARYLLIS--YEW. AND
THA UDDER ONE
WUZ 'ESTER.

NOW THEY'RE
BOTH RETURNED.



HESTER CONSUMED
AMARYLLIS...CONSUMED
HER POWER.

WHEN SHE DIED...

...OH
LORD...

...BOTH
WOMEN WERE
REBORN.

EMMY--WHAT
IS HE SAYING?

WHAT DOES
IT MEAN?

IS KAMMI
COMING FOR
YOU?



NOT YET.

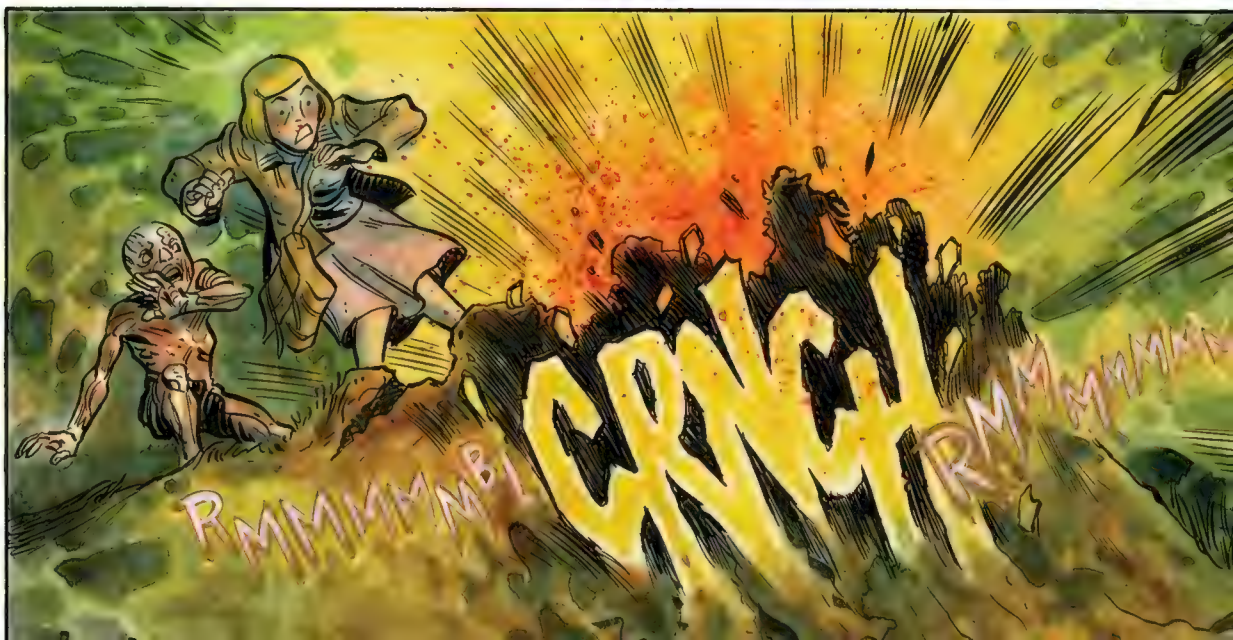
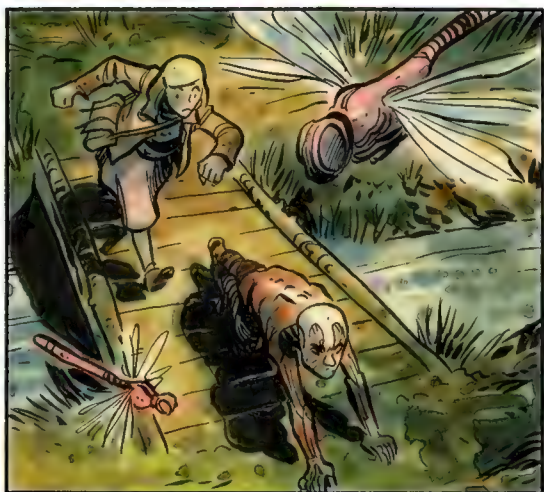
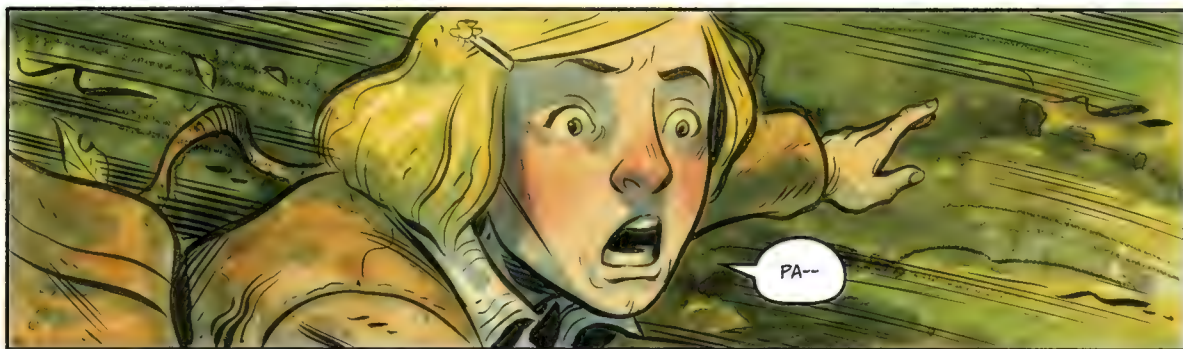
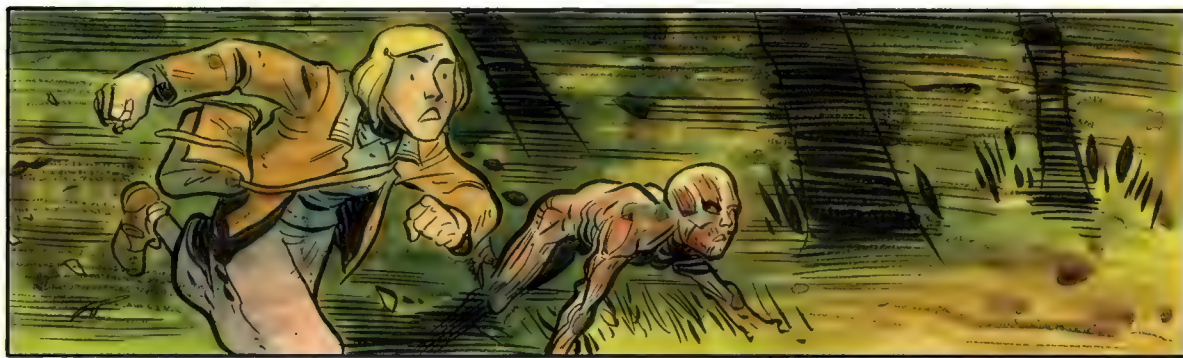
BUT I C'N
SMELL 'ER ON
THA AIR.

SHE'S ALREADY
MOVIN'...MOVIN'
AGAINST YEW,
EMMY.

SHE WANTS
TA 'URT YEW.

SNIF













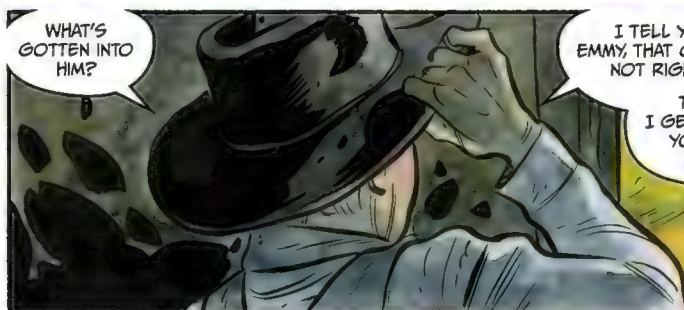
HEY,
PA.

EMMY?

THERE
YOU ARE!



I WAS
STARTING TO
THINK MAYBE YOU'D
FINALLY DECIDED TO
RUN OFF AND LEAVE
ME HERE TO TEND
THIS FARM ALL BY
MY LONESOME.



WHAT'S
GOTTEN INTO
HIM?

I TELL YA,
EMMY, THAT COW'S
NOT RIGHT.

THAT'S WHAT
I GET FOR LETTING
YOU RAISE HIM
LIKE A PET.



OH, WELL.

YOU THINK
MAYBE YOU'VE GOT
TIME TO HELP
ME WITH THE
TRACTOR?

I SURE WOULD
LIKE TO GET THIS
HUNK OF JUNK RUNNING
AGAIN SOMETIME
SOON.

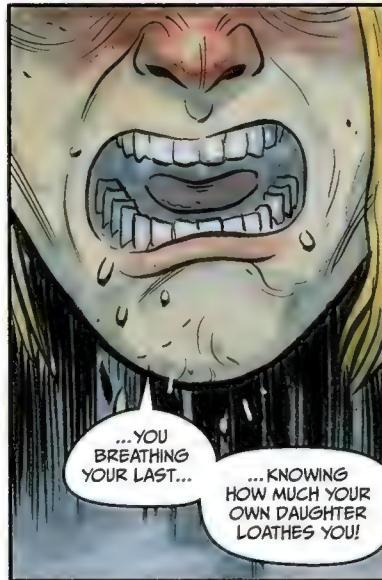
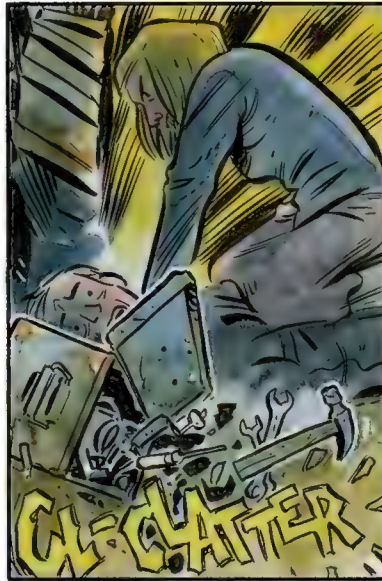


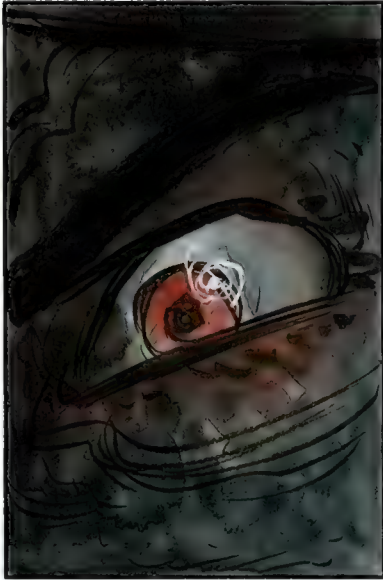
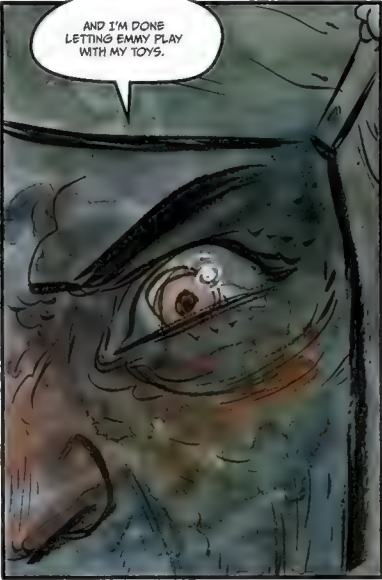
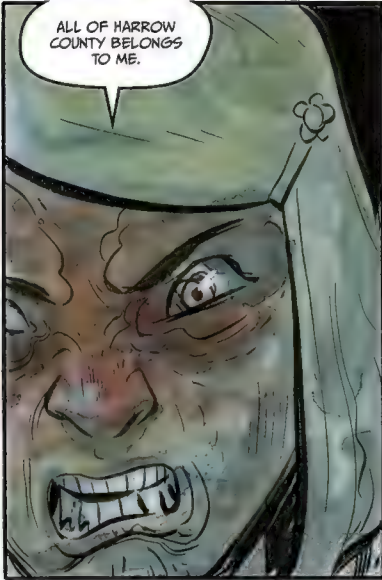
YOU FEELING
YOURSELF?

YOU'RE AWFUL
QUIET AND THAT'S
NOT LIKE YOU.

I'M USED
TO YOU RATTLING
ON ABOUT WHATEVER
TROUBLE YOU'VE
GOTTEN
YOURSELF--









PA!





CRook
-17-

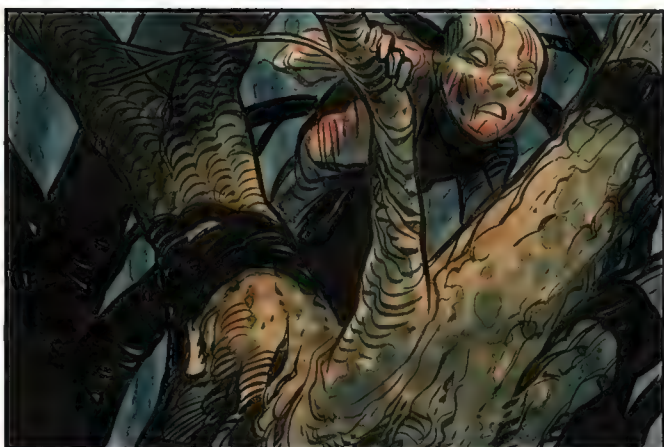


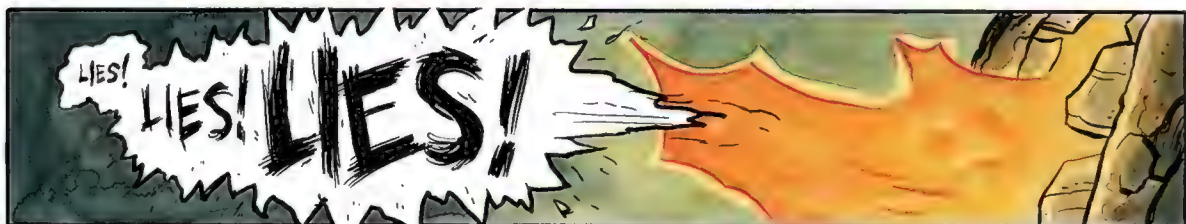
TWENTY-SIX



PA...

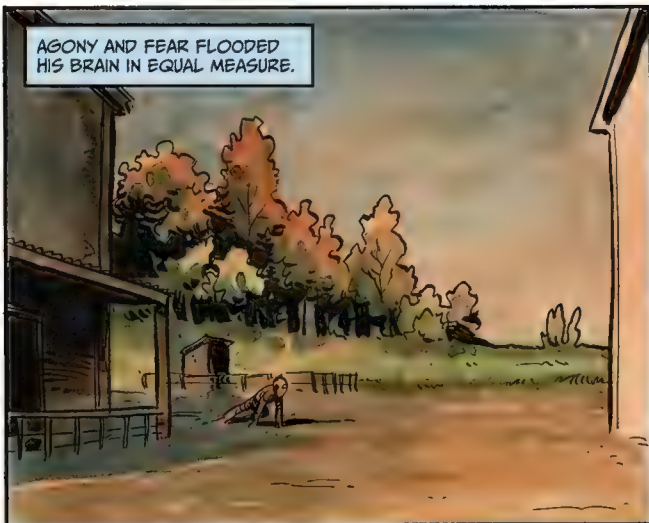
KAMMI'S
GOING AFTER
PA.







AGONY AND FEAR FLOODED
HIS BRAIN IN EQUAL MEASURE.



BUT HE WAS
RATIONAL
ENOUGH.



HE KNEW WHAT HE WOULD FIND
WHEN HE REACHED THE FARM.



HE KNEW HE WOULD
BE TOO LATE.

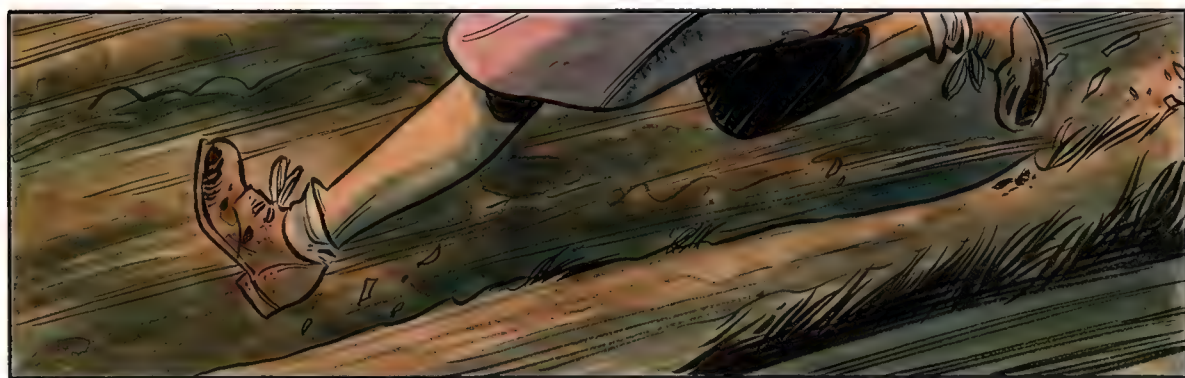
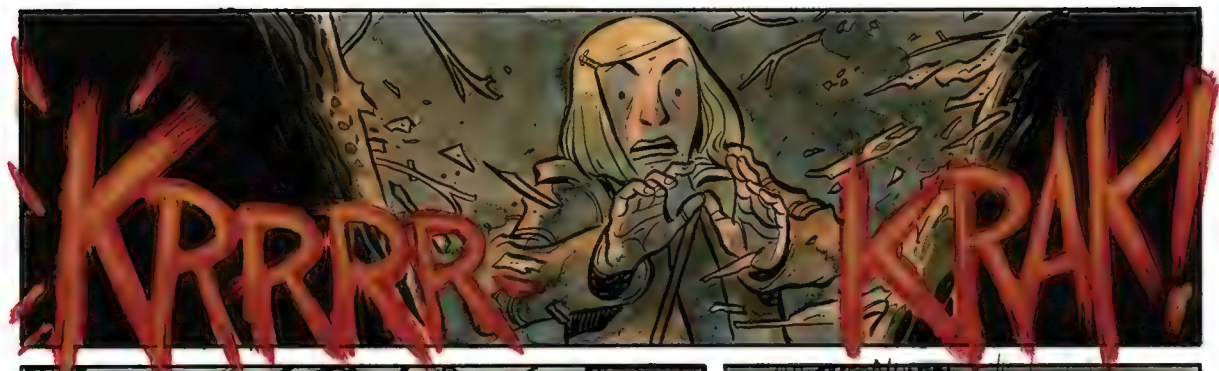


AND--FERAL OR NOT--
THE HAIT PITIED EMMY.

AND HE FEARED
FOR HER...









OH...
PAI OH NO, PAI
YOU CAN'T... ...I DON'T...



I SHOULD'VE
BEEN HERE.
I SHOULD'VE
STOPPED HER.



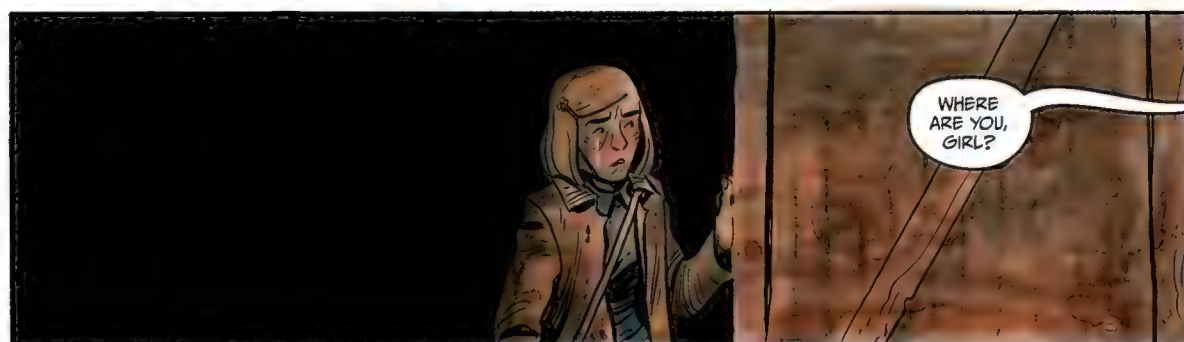
HHHHH--

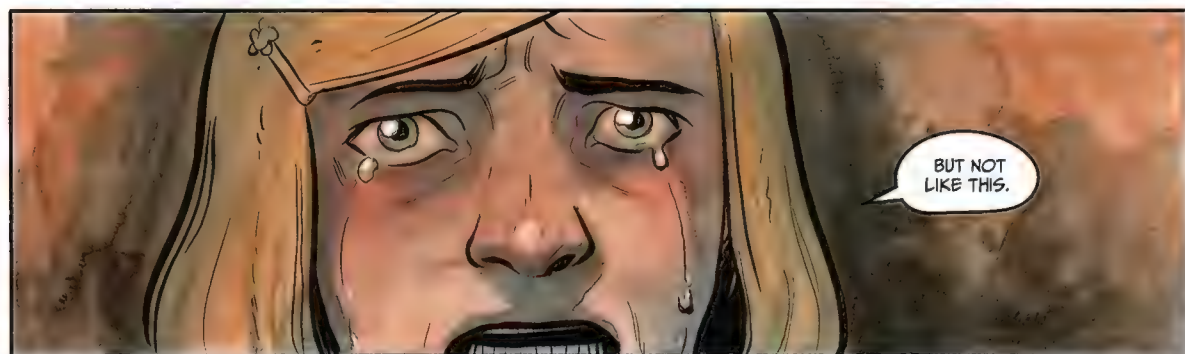


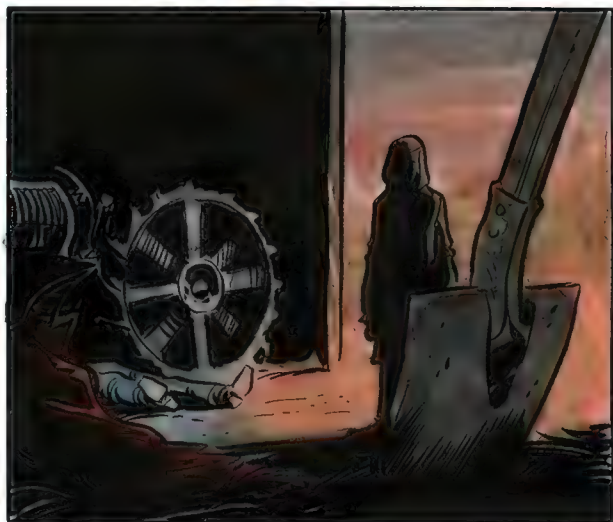
YOU!
WHAT
GOOD ARE
YOU?

YOU SHOULD
HAVE GOTTEN HERE
SOONER!





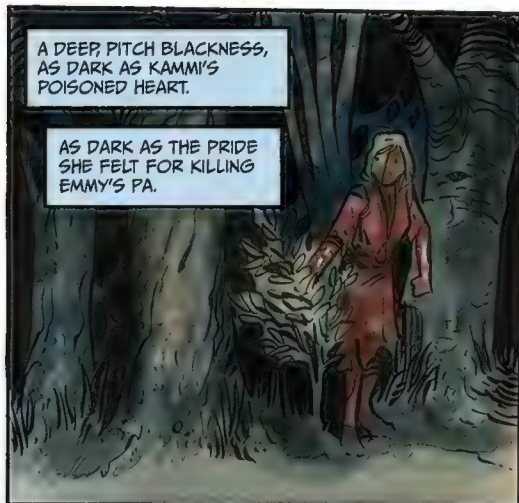






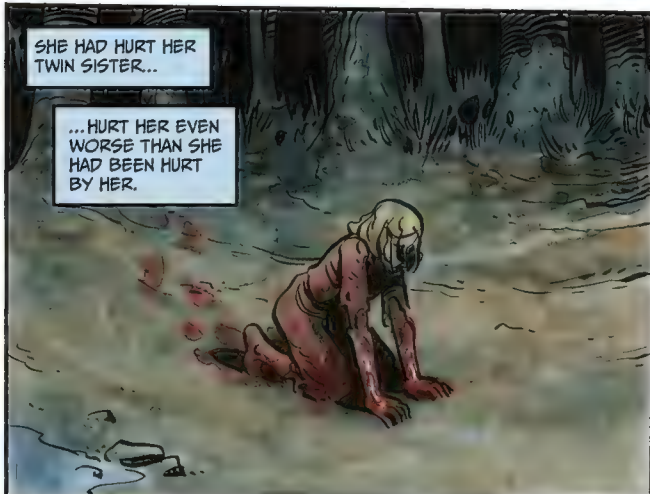
NIGHT WAS FALLING
IN HARROW.

AND IT WOULD BE A COLDER,
CRUELER NIGHT THAN THE COUNTY
HAD SEEN IN SOME TIME.



A DEEP, PITCH BLACKNESS,
AS DARK AS KAMMI'S
POISONED HEART.

AS DARK AS THE PRIDE
SHE FELT FOR KILLING
EMMY'S PA.



SHE HAD HURT HER
TWIN SISTER...

...HURT HER EVEN
WORSE THAN SHE
HAD BEEN HURT
BY HER.



AND IT FELT GOOD.

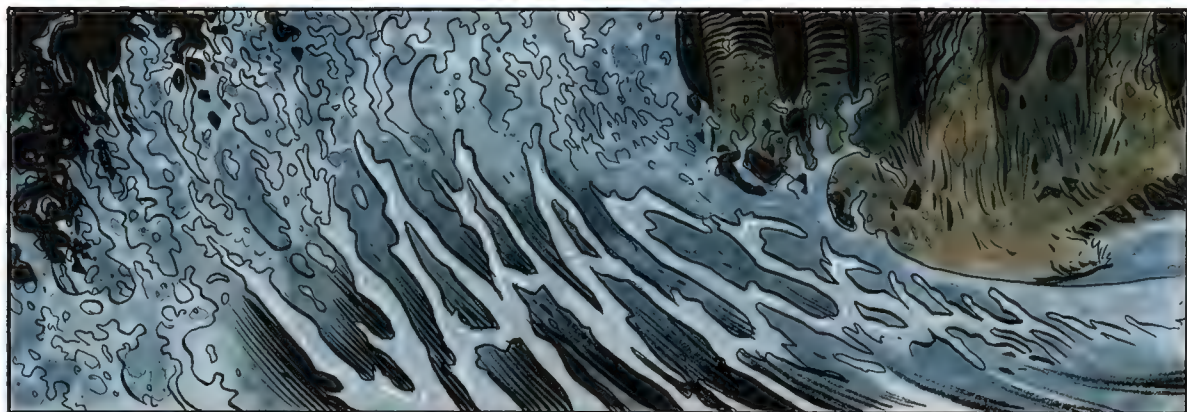


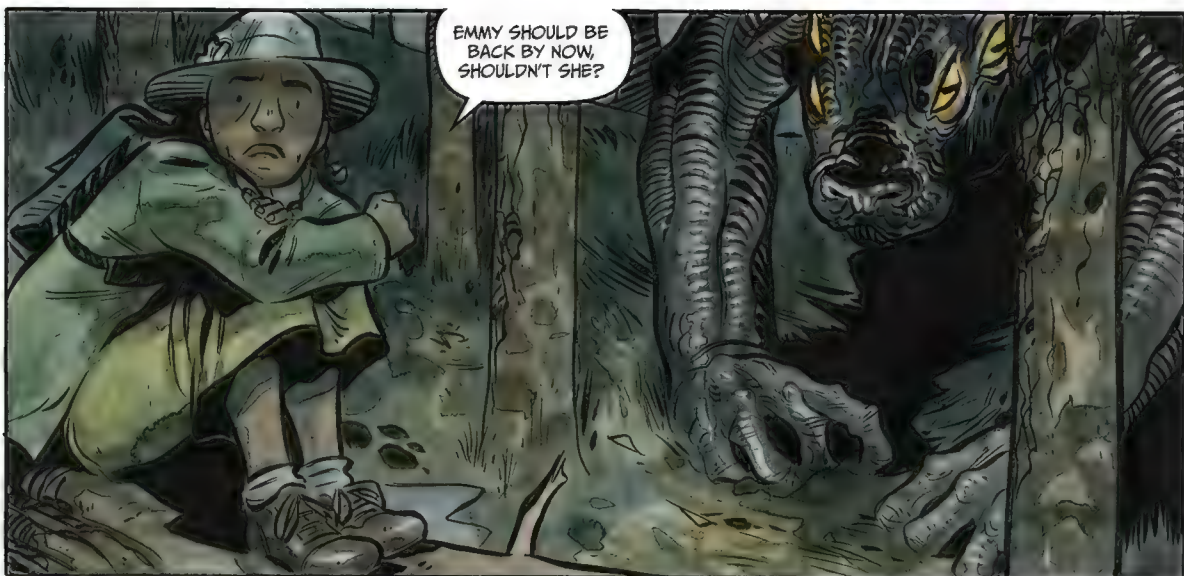
BUT SHE WAS JUST
GETTING STARTED.

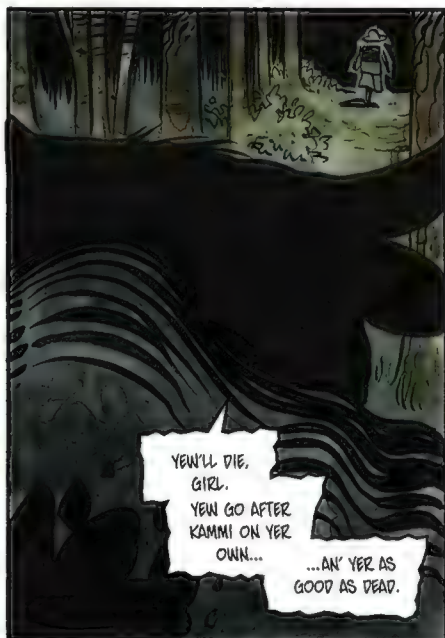


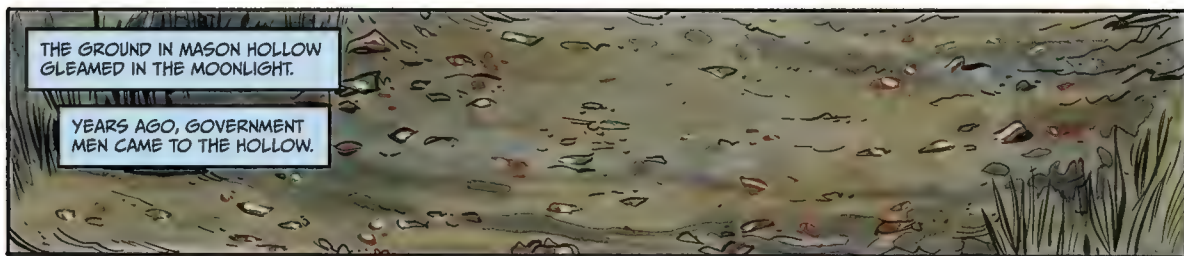
HNH?











THE GROUND IN MASON HOLLOW
GLEAMED IN THE MOONLIGHT.

YEARS AGO, GOVERNMENT
MEN CAME TO THE HOLLOW.



THEY HAD SMASHED THOUSANDS
OF JARS FULL OF HOMEMADE
WINE UPON THE EARTH.

THE REMNANTS OF THOSE
SHATTERED JARS WERE
EMBEDDED IN THE SOIL
ALL AROUND.



THEY GLITTERED
UNDERFOOT.



WELL, ISN'T
THIS JUST
QUAINT?

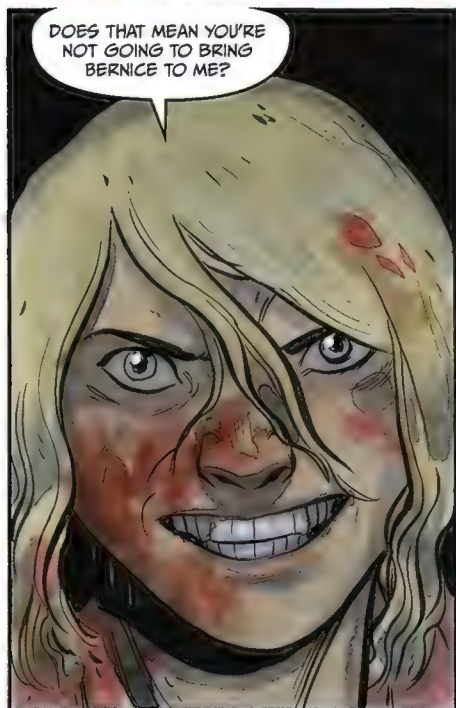
A QUIET LITTLE
COMMUNITY... NESTLED
OUT HERE IN THE
WOODS.

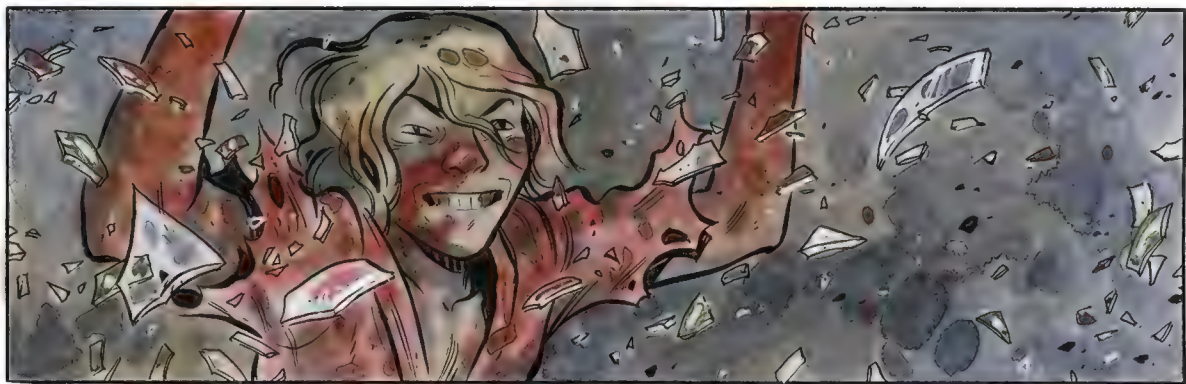
AND EVERYBODY
SLEEPING, THINKING THEY'RE
SAFE AND SOUND IN
THEIR HOMES.

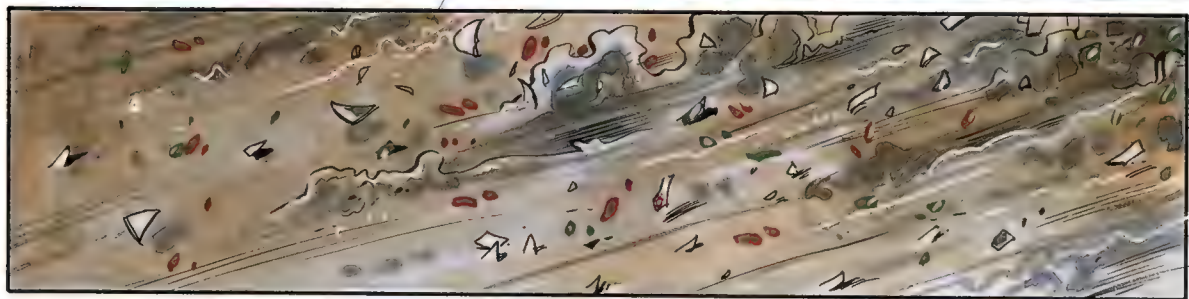


WAKE
THEM UP.

AAAAUUURRRRR









WELL, YOU
FOUND ME!



26

TWENTY-SEVEN



I DON'T RECKON
THESE THINGS LOOK LIKE
MUCH, NOT TO YOUR
YOUNG EYES.

SOME
ROOTS AND
SPICES.

OLD SNAKE
SKINS.



NO... NOT
MUCH TO LOOK
AT AT ALL.

BUT THESE ROOTS
AND SPICES AND WITHERED
OLD ONIONS... THEY CAN SAVE
YOUR HIDE IF N YOU COME
ACROSS A WITCH.



I SEE
THE *BIBLE*
THERE.



THAT'S RIGHT...
AND THAT MIGHT
HELP YOU, TOO.

THE *GOOD WORD*
MIGHT JUST SAVE YOU IN
THE WORST OF TIMES.



BUT THIS AIN'T
ONLY ABOUT *PROTECTING*
YOURSELF, IS IT?

THIS IS
ABOUT *HURTING*
WITCHES.

AND FOR
THAT, YOU NEED
EVEN MORE THAN
PRAYER.



THE LORD
PUT THESE ROOTS
IN THE GROUND...

...CAUSED SEAWATER
TO DRY UP AND LEAVE
SALT BEHIND...

...LET VINES
RUN WILD AND
SPROUT
PEPPER...

...SO THAT
HIS *WARRIORS*
MIGHT FIND THESE
THINGS AND PUT
THEM TO USE.



BLACK PEPPER MIXED WITH SALT AND METAL SHAVINGS... THAT'S WITCH'S SALT... AND IT CAN SOAK UP BAD MAGIC LIKE A SPONGE.

GARLIC CLOVES ARE POISON TO EVIL THINGS.

PLACE AN OLD IRON NAIL IN A WITCH'S FOOTPRINT AND YOU'LL HOLD HER IN PLACE.



BUT DOESN'T THIS MAKE YOU... AND ME... WITCHES, TOO?

YOU CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE.

A WITCH, SHE CAN BEND THE WORLD TO HER WILL.

BUT THERE'RE WAYS TO TURN THE WORLD AGAINST HER.

YOU KNOW HOW TO USE JUST A FEW OF THESE ITEMS, AND YOU CAN DRIVE A WITCH OFF.

YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THEM ALL, AND YOU CAN KILL IF YOU NEED TO.



I DON'T KNOW THAT I WANT TO KILL ANYONE.

NOT A WITCH.

NOT ANYONE.

WELL, I HOPE YOU DON'T NEVER HAVE TO TAKE A LIFE.

I TRULY DO.

BUT I'LL TEACH YOU WHAT IT IS YOU NEED TO KNOW JUST THE SAME.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, GIRL...

...IF THE DAY DAWNS WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF FEUDING WITH A WITCH...



"...YOU AIN'T GONNA HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER."

I'M GONNA GIVE YOU JUST ONE CHANCE, KAMMI.
YOU GO ON... GET OUT OF HERE... LEAVE THESE PEOPLE ALONE...

...OR I SWEAR YOU'LL REGRET IT.



WELL, AREN'T YOU JUST FIERCE?

LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE JUST A TREMBLING LITTLE FLOWER.

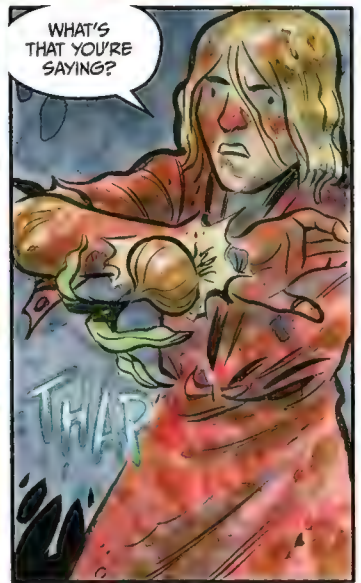
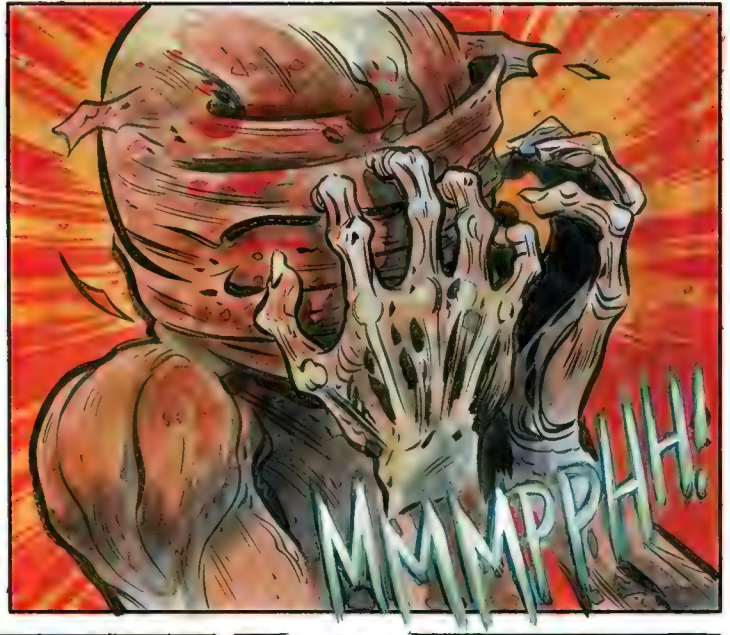
AM I TO BELIEVE THAT FLOWER'S NOW SPROUTED THORNS?

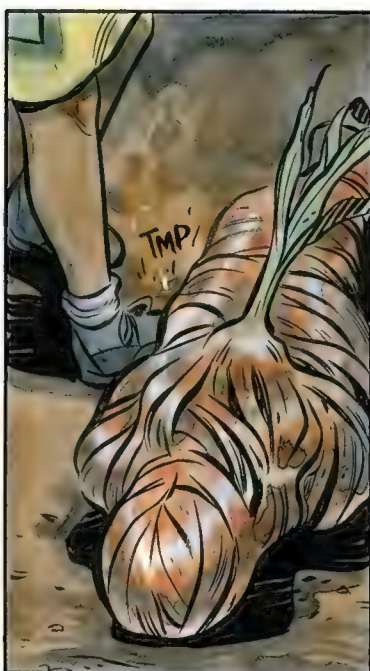
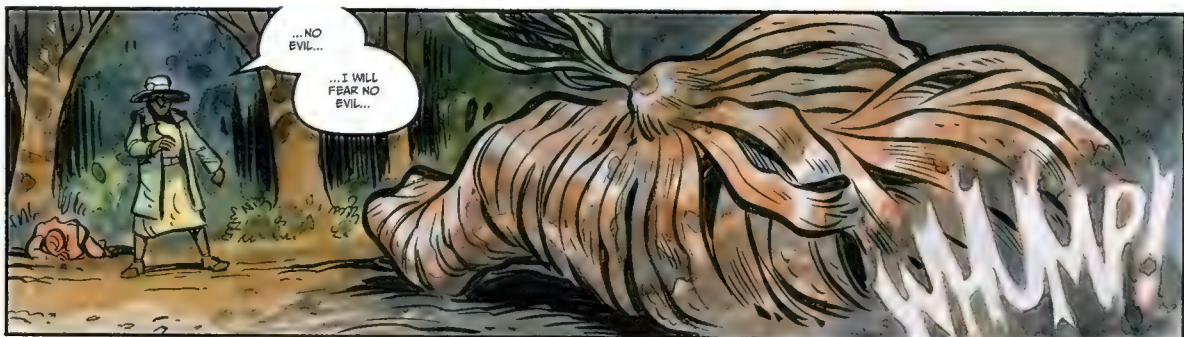


I DON'T HAVE A CARE WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

LEAVE THIS PLACE...









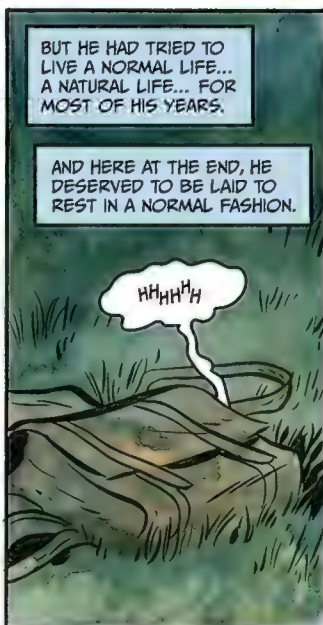
EMMY MIGHT'VE HELD
GREAT SWAY OVER THE
WORLD AROUND HER.

SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO CONSIGN HER PA'S BODY
TO THE GROUND WITH BUT
A THOUGHT.



LIKE EMMY HERSELF,
PA WAS NOT BORN
BY NATURAL MEANS.

HE HAD BEEN GIVEN LIFE
BY THE WITCH HESTER BECK.



BUT HE HAD TRIED TO
LIVE A NORMAL LIFE...
A NATURAL LIFE... FOR
MOST OF HIS YEARS.

AND HERE AT THE END, HE
DESERVED TO BE LAID TO
REST IN A NORMAL FASHION.

HHHHH

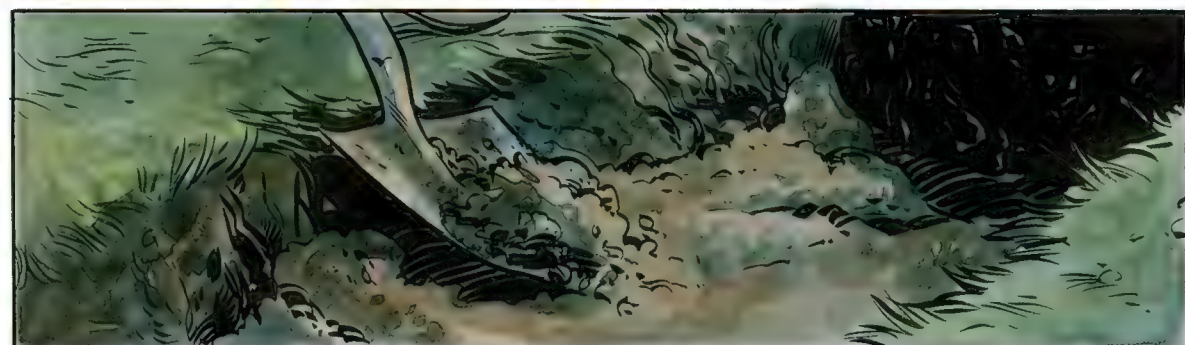
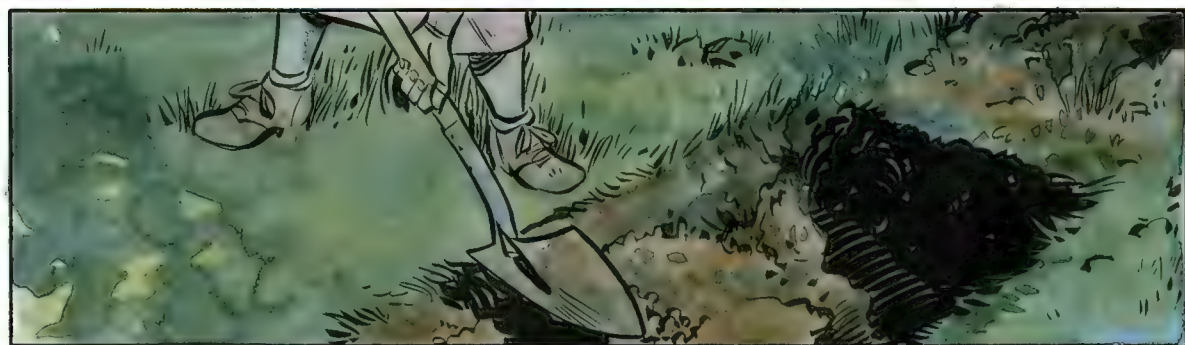
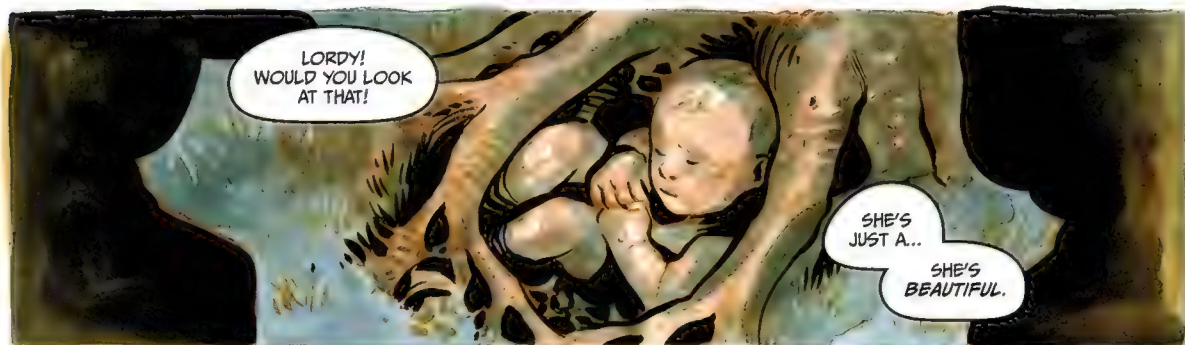
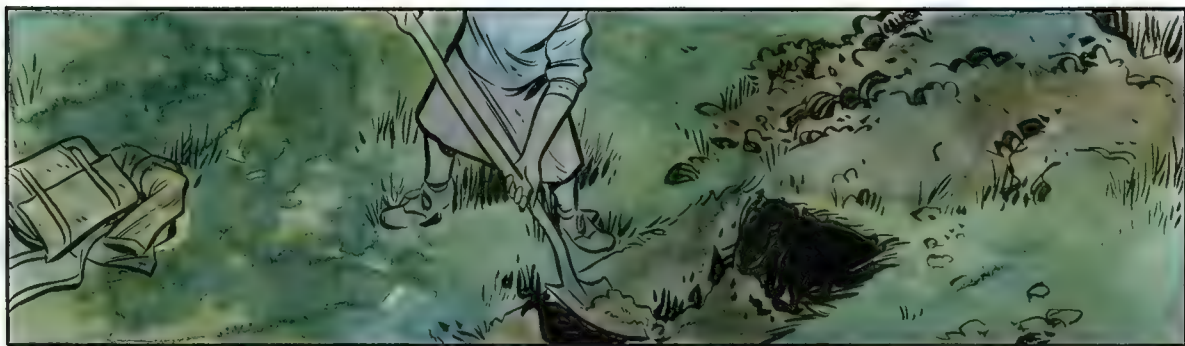


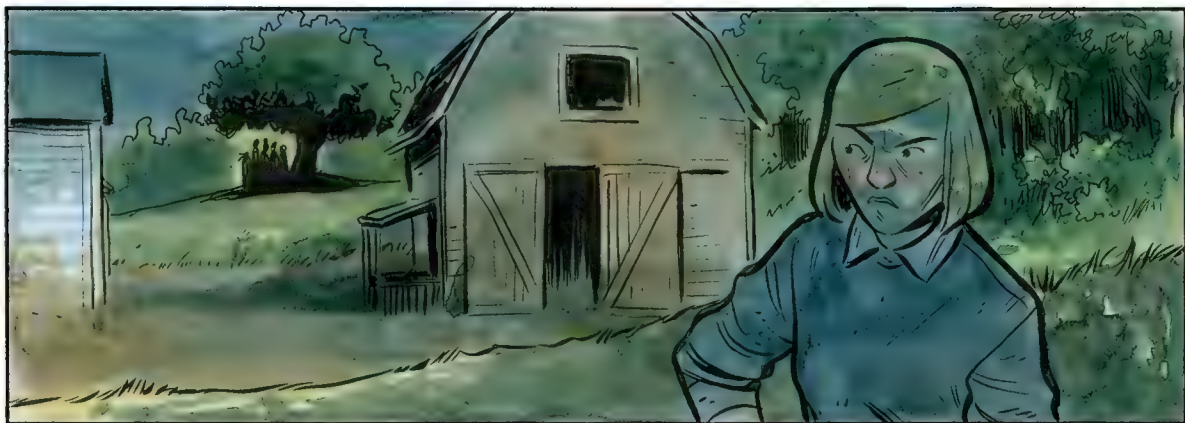
PA...



HE DESERVED...

...BETTER.





I'LL BE DAMNED.

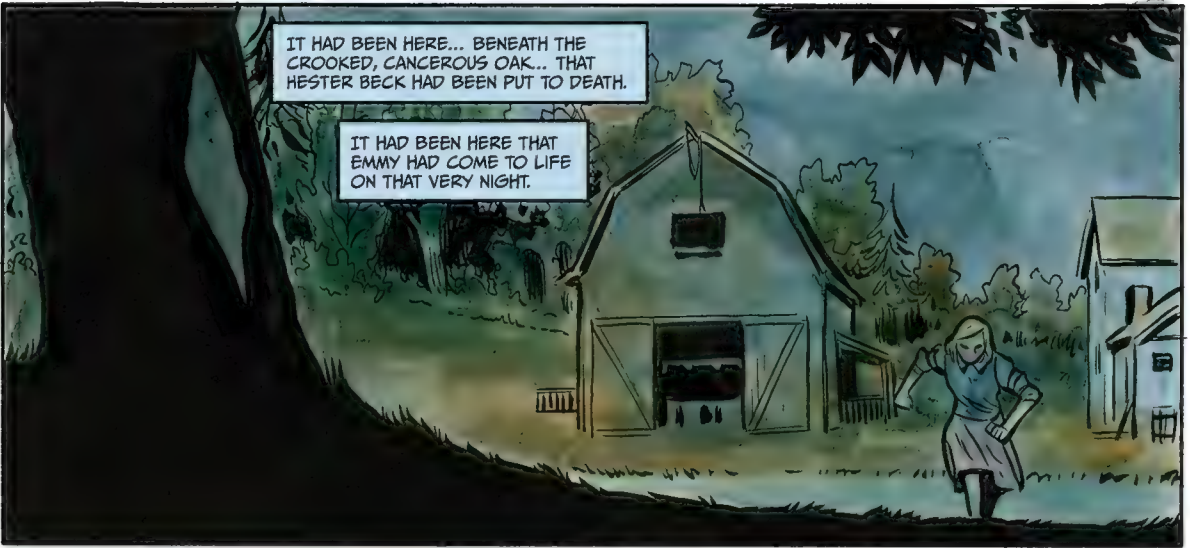
YOU DID THIS! YOU KILLED HIM!

YOU WERE SORE BECAUSE I RAN YOU OFF!

I'LL BE DAMNED IF I LET YOU COME BACK HERE AND DO THIS!



HHRRRRUUUU~



IT HAD BEEN HERE... BENEATH THE
CROOKED, CANCEROUS OAK... THAT
HESTER BECK HAD BEEN PUT TO DEATH.

IT HAD BEEN HERE THAT
EMMY HAD COME TO LIFE
ON THAT VERY NIGHT.



BUT EMMY--AND HER TWIN
KAMMI AS WELL--WERE PART
OF SOMETHING BIGGER.

WHERE--

A LONG LINEAGE OF POWERFUL
SPIRITS AND TRICKSTERS.



AND THAT ESTRANGED FAMILY
WAS BEHIND THESE DARK TIMES.

EMMY JUST
KNEW IT.



YOU WON'T
FIND THEM HERE,
CHILD.

THEY FEAR
YOU...

...JUST
LIKE THEY
FEARED
ME...

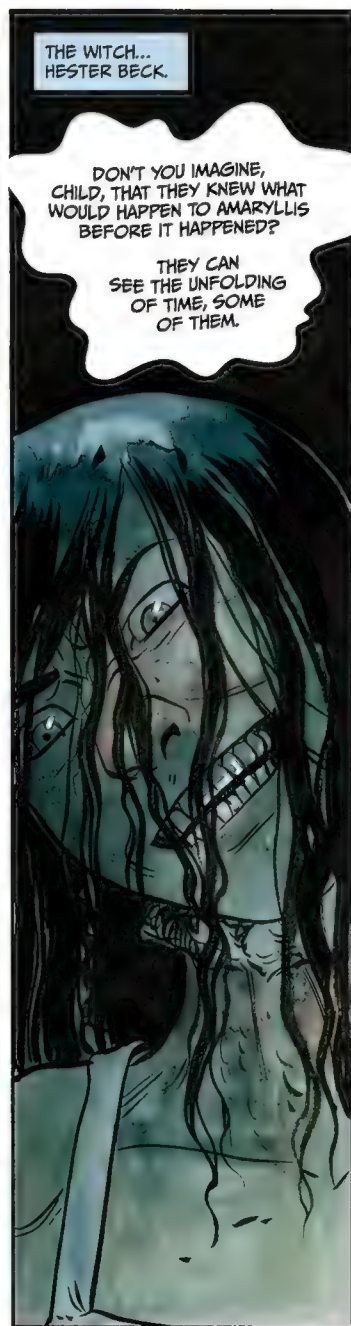
THEY WON'T
SHOW THEMSELVES
TO YOU... NOT UNTIL YOU'RE
TOO WEAK TO STAND
AGAINST THEM.

...AND THAT
FEAR IS AS SURE
AS A KNIFE IN
THE DARK.

EMMY KNEW THE APPARITION
THAT ROSE BEFORE HER...

...KNEW HER AS WELL
AS SHE KNEW HERSELF.

SHE HAD SEEN
HER IN DREAMS.



THE WITCH...
HESTER BECK.

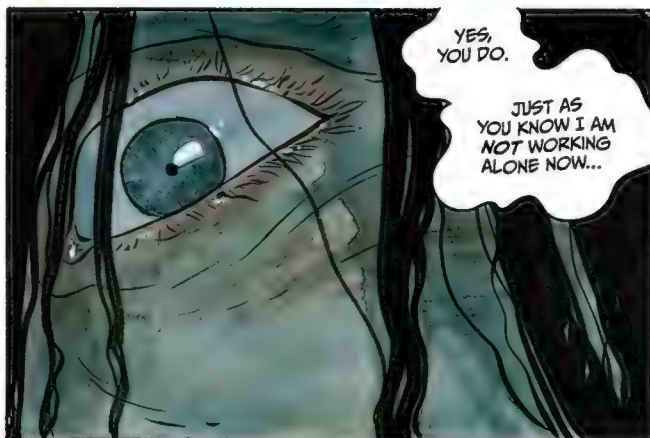
DON'T YOU IMAGINE,
CHILD, THAT THEY KNEW WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN TO AMARYLLIS
BEFORE IT HAPPENED?

THEY CAN
SEE THE UNFOLDING
OF TIME, SOME
OF THEM.



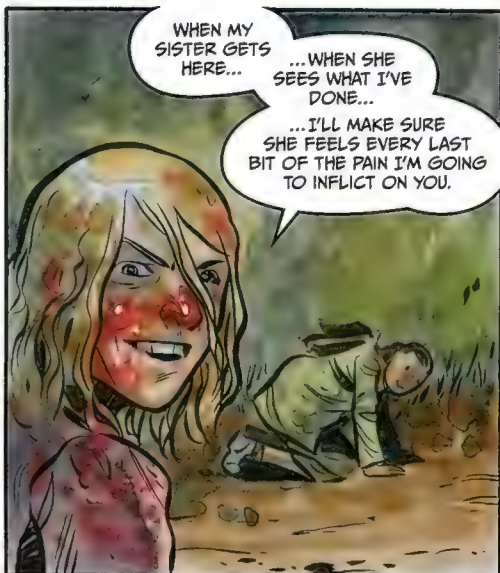
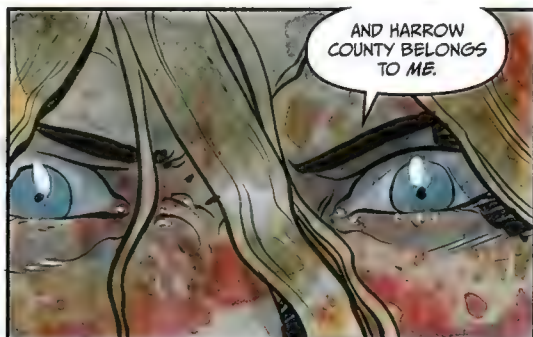
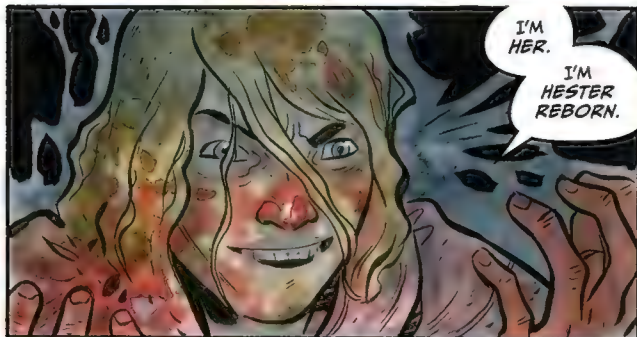
DO YOU
THINK I ACTED
ALONE WHEN I
KILLED MY
SISTER?

I...
I DON'T...

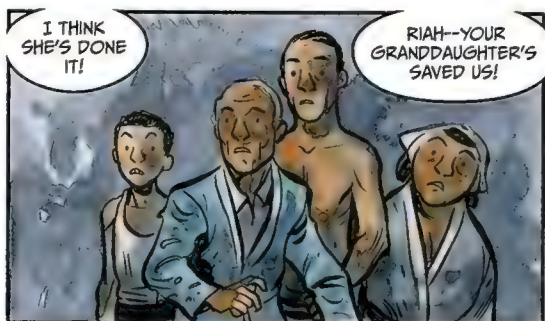


YES,
YOU DO.

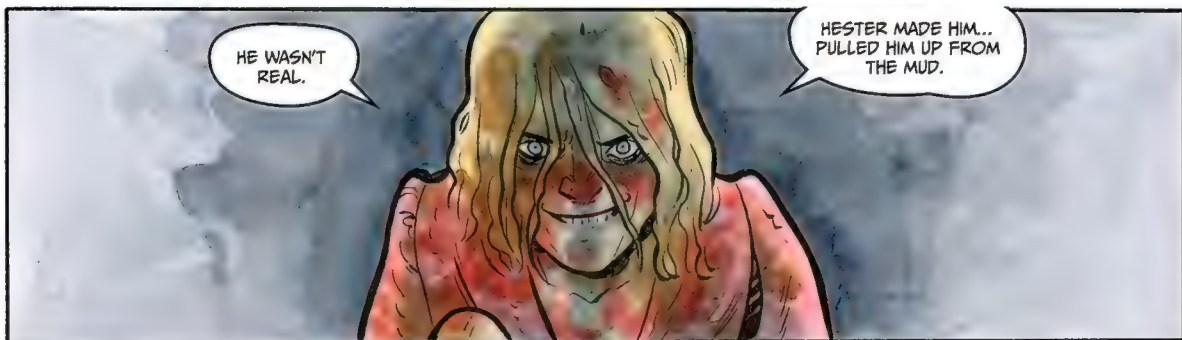
JUST AS
YOU KNOW I AM
NOT WORKING
ALONE NOW...

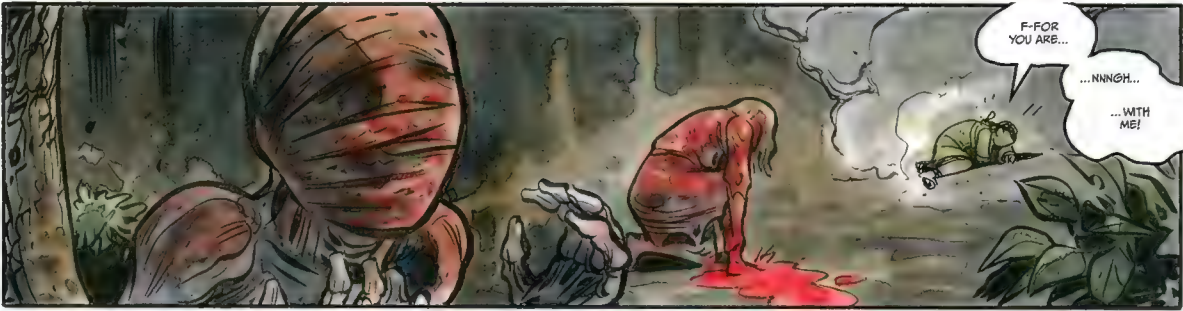


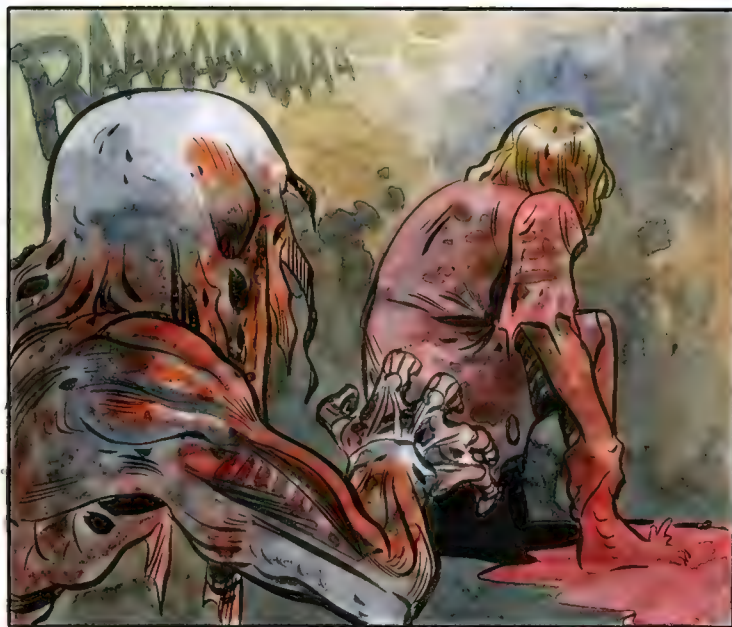














THE FAMILY...
THEY MIGHT BE
AFRAID...

...BUT YOU
KILLED AMARYLLIS
BECAUSE YOU WERE
AFRAID OF HER.

SHE
WAS THE
GREATEST--



THERE WAS NO
FEAR IN WHAT
I DID.

JEALOUSY...
COVETOUSNESS...

...BUT I NEVER
FEARED HER!

I ONLY WANTED
TO CLAIM WHAT SHE
HAD FOR MY OWN.



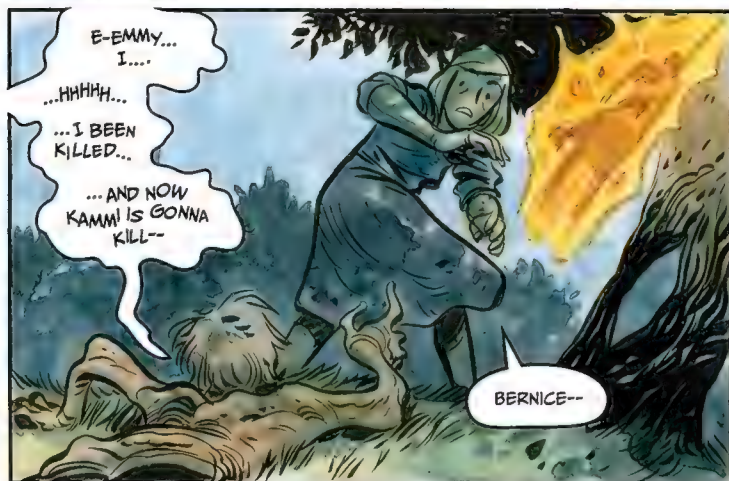
AND ONCE I
DID THAT... I BECAME
THE GREATEST
OF OUR KIND.



BUT--GO,
EMMY.

TEND
TO YOUR
TWIN.

AND ONCE
YOU'RE DONE...
I'LL BE COMING
BACK TO TAKE
CARE OF
WHATEVER'S
LEFT.



E-EMMY...
I....

...HHHHH...

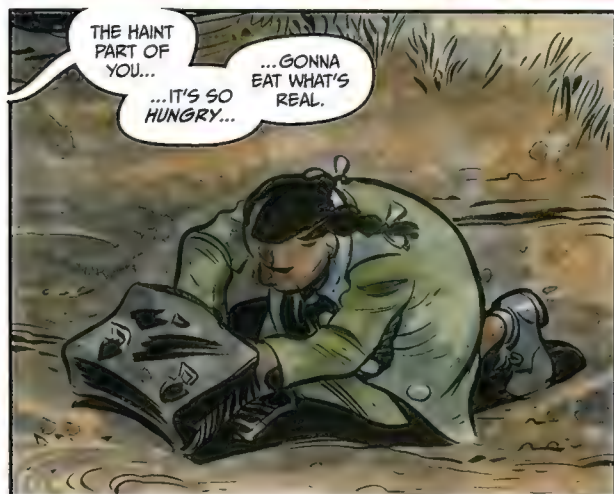
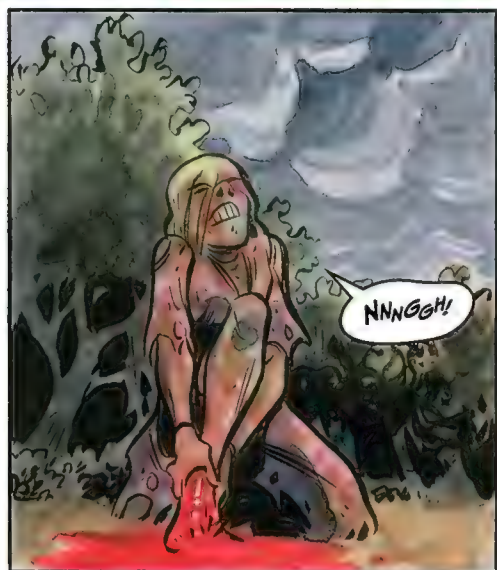
...I BEEN
KILLED...

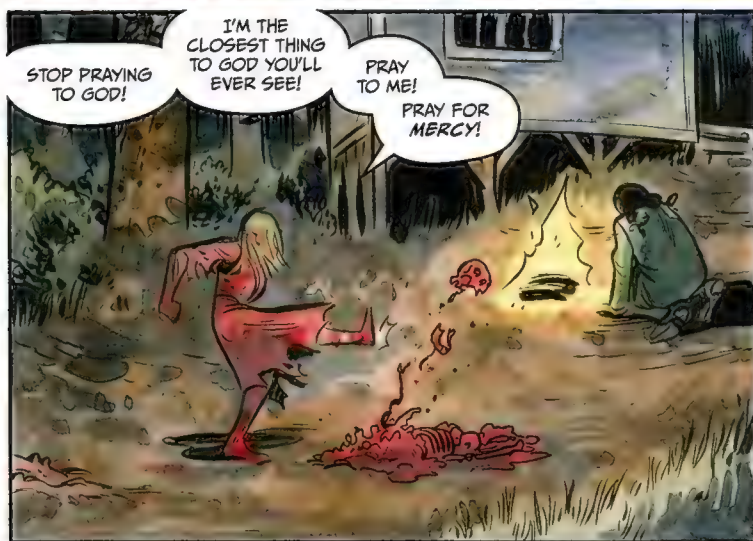
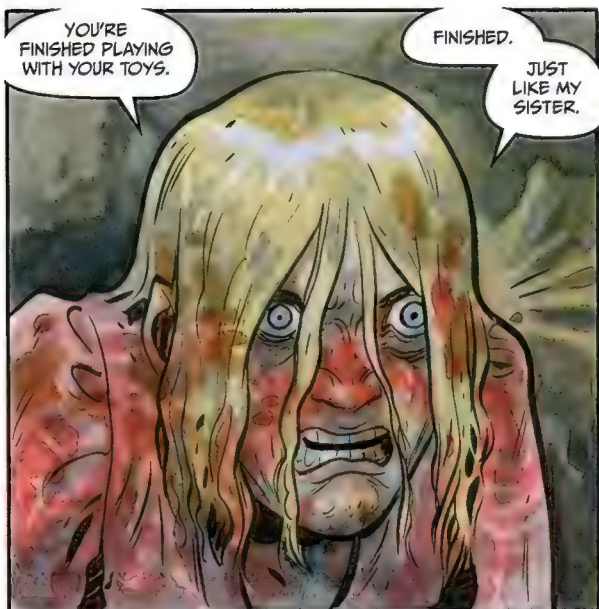
...AND NOW
KAMMI IS GONNA
KILL--

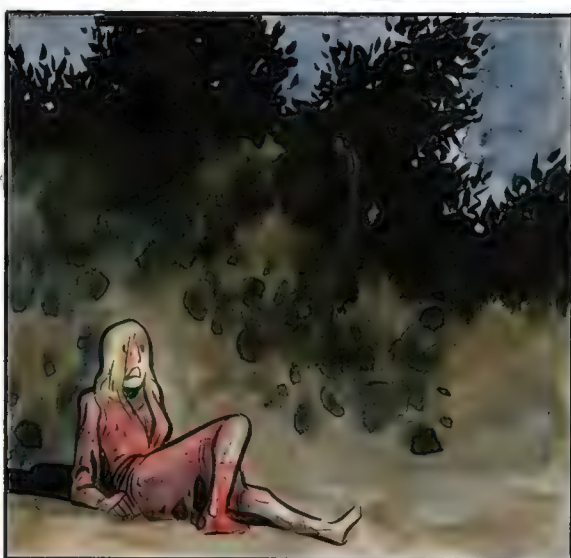
BERNICE--



"IS IT DREADFUL?"



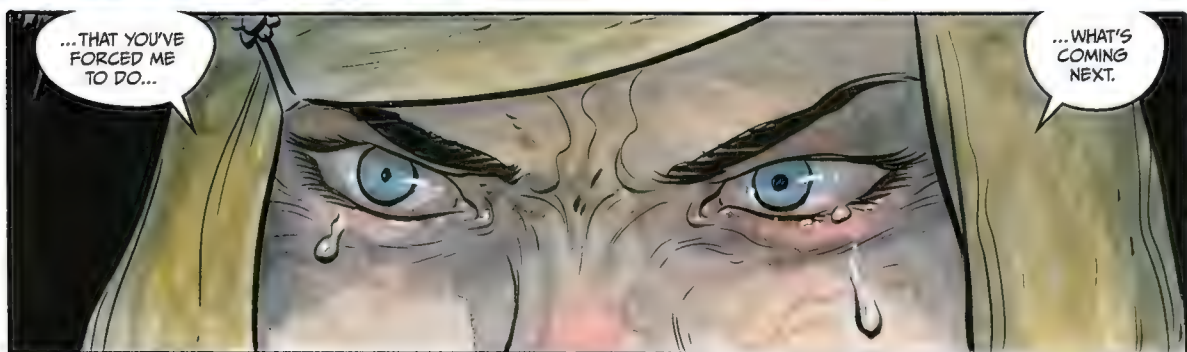






I'M SORRY,
KAMMI.
I'M SORRY
I HAD THE LIFE
YOU WANTED.
I'M SORRY
FOR BANISHING
YOU THE WAY
I DID.

SORRY I
COULDN'T BE THE
SISTER YOU WANTED.
SORRY I LET YOU
DOWN.
BUT
MOST OF ALL...
I'M SORRY...



...THAT YOU'VE
FORCED ME
TO DO...

...WHAT'S
COMING
NEXT.



TWENTY-EIGHT



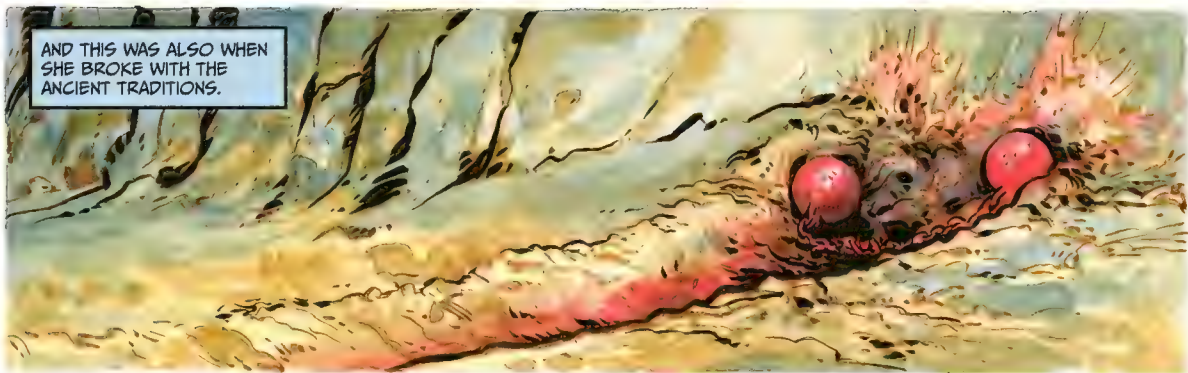
ALL THOSE YEARS AGO,
HESTER CALLED A LOST
SHIP UP FROM THE DEPTHS.

SHE WAS ONLY
LEARNING
BACK THEN.

SHE HADN'T YET
MASTERED THE
FORCES AT HER
BECK AND CALL.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE
TRIED--REALLY TRIED--TO
PUT HER GIFTS TO USE.

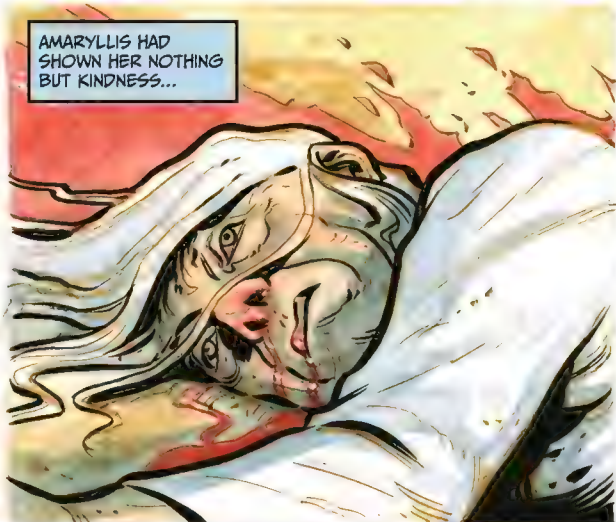
AND THIS WAS ALSO WHEN
SHE BROKE WITH THE
ANCIENT TRADITIONS.



THIS WAS WHEN
SHE KILLED ONE
OF HER OWN.



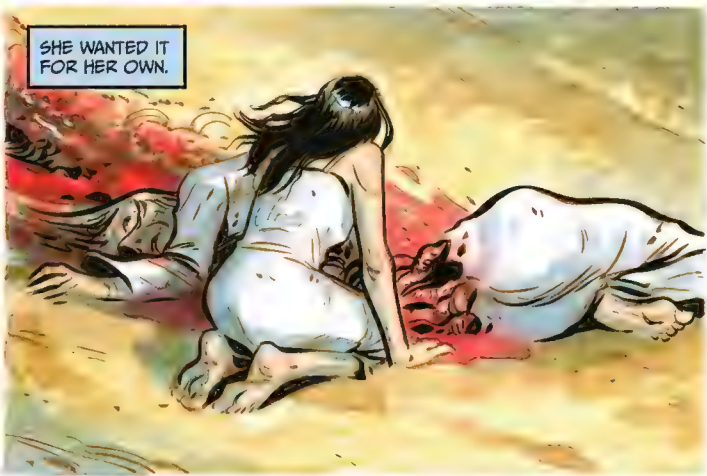
AMARYLLIS HAD
SHOWN HER NOTHING
BUT KINDNESS...



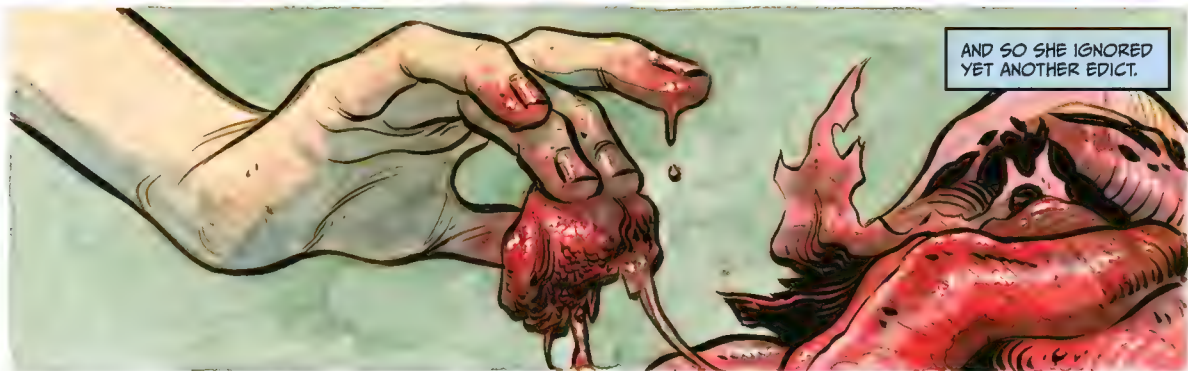
...BUT HESTER *COVETED*
WHAT HER SISTER POSSESSED.

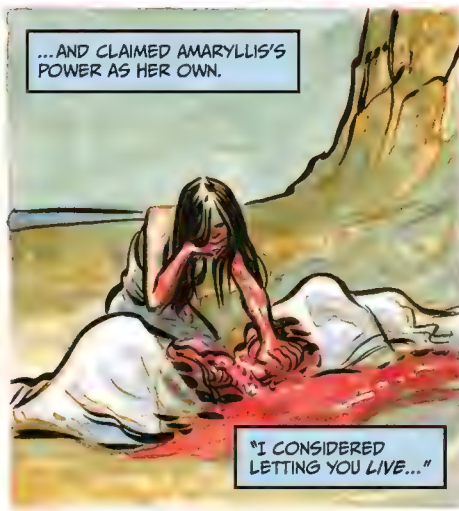
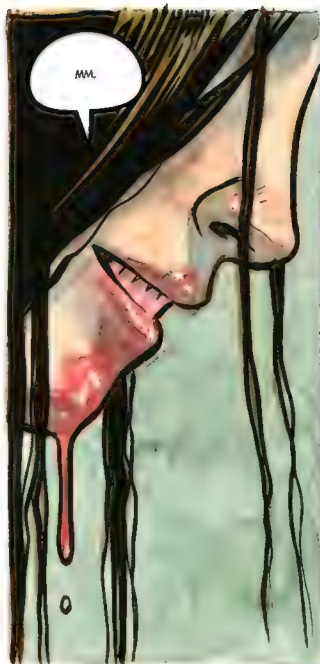
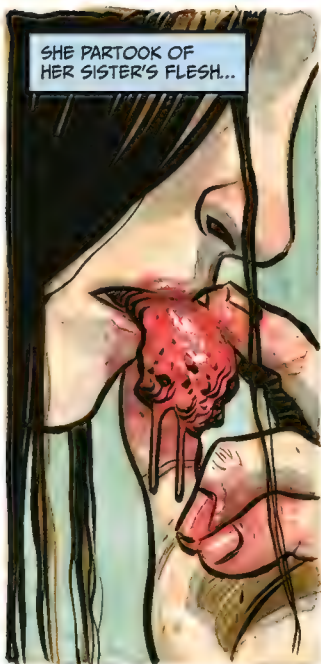


SHE WANTED IT
FOR HER OWN.



AND SO SHE IGNORED
YET ANOTHER EDICT.







WHEN I FIRST
REALIZED YOU HAD COME
BACK... I THOUGHT MAYBE
I COULD FIND YOU...

...CONVINCE YOU
TO LEAVE HARROW
AND FORGET
ABOUT ME.

I THOUGHT
WE COULD BOTH BE
DONE WITH ONE ANOTHER
AND LIVE OUR LIVES.



THIS IS
MY LIFE.

YOU TOOK
IT FROM
ME.

AND
NOW I'M
TAKING IT
BACK.



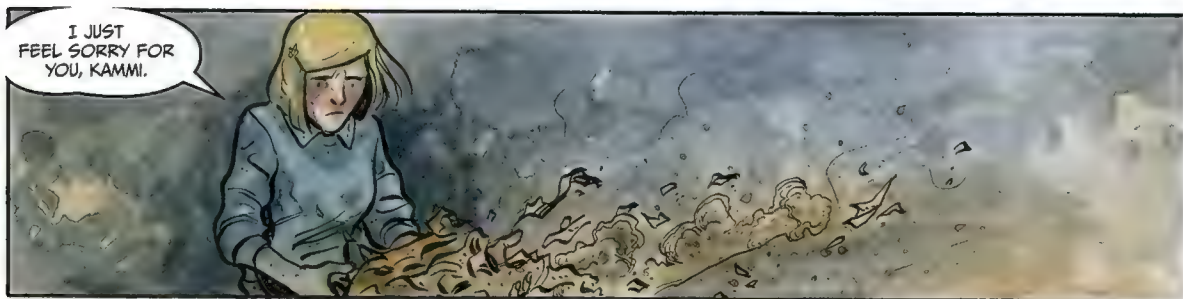
I THOUGHT
MAYBE YOU WOULD
APPRECIATE A LITTLE
COMPASSION...
SOME MERCY.

BUT AFTER
WHAT YOU'VE DONE...
THERE'S NO LIVE AND
LET LIVE, IS
THERE?



ONE
OF US HAS
TO DIE.







I AIN'T GOING TO USE MY MAGIC TO KILL YOU, KAMMI.

I'LL DO IT...

...JUST LIKE THIS...



...JUST LIKE YOU KILLED PA!

GONNA KILL ME LIKE...

NNNN
...A REGULAR PERSON...

NNNGH
...THIS TIME...



WHHUF!

WELL, I WON'T GIVE YOU THE SAME COURTESY!



NNNN--

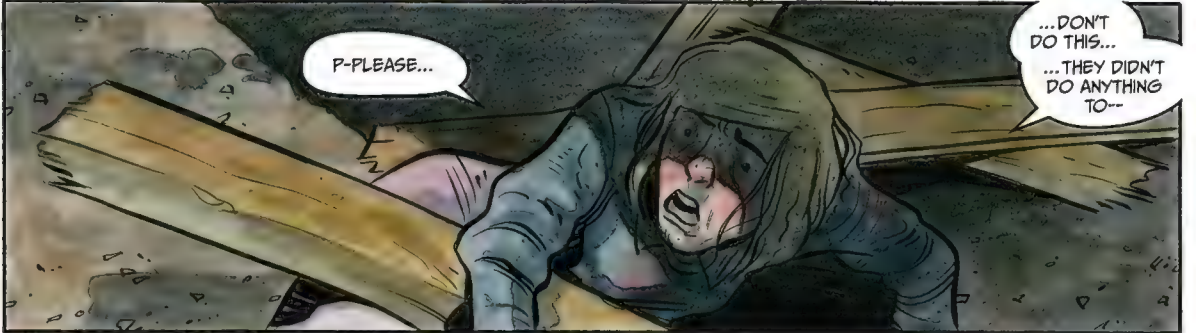


WE CAN'T DIE LIKE THE REST OF THESE PEOPLE. YOU WANT TO KILL ME...

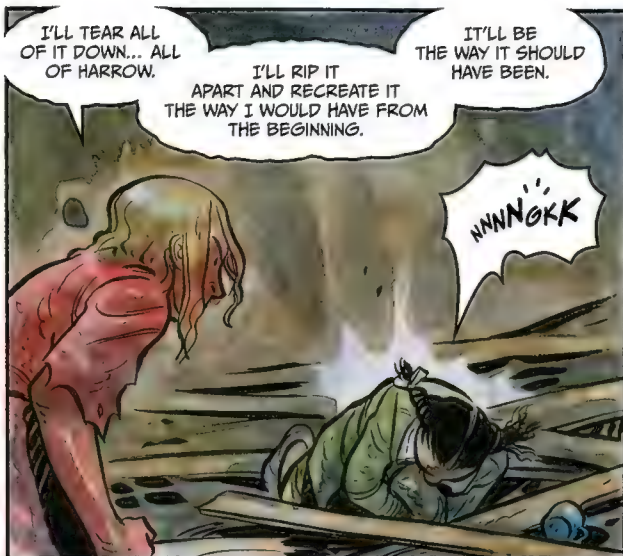
...IT'S GONNA TAKE MORE THAN BLOOD AND SWEAT AND TEARS.

HERE...









I'LL TEAR ALL
OF IT DOWN... ALL
OF HARROW.

I'LL RIP IT
APART AND RECREATE IT
THE WAY I WOULD HAVE FROM
THE BEGINNING.

IT'LL BE
THE WAY IT SHOULD
HAVE BEEN.

NNNNOKK



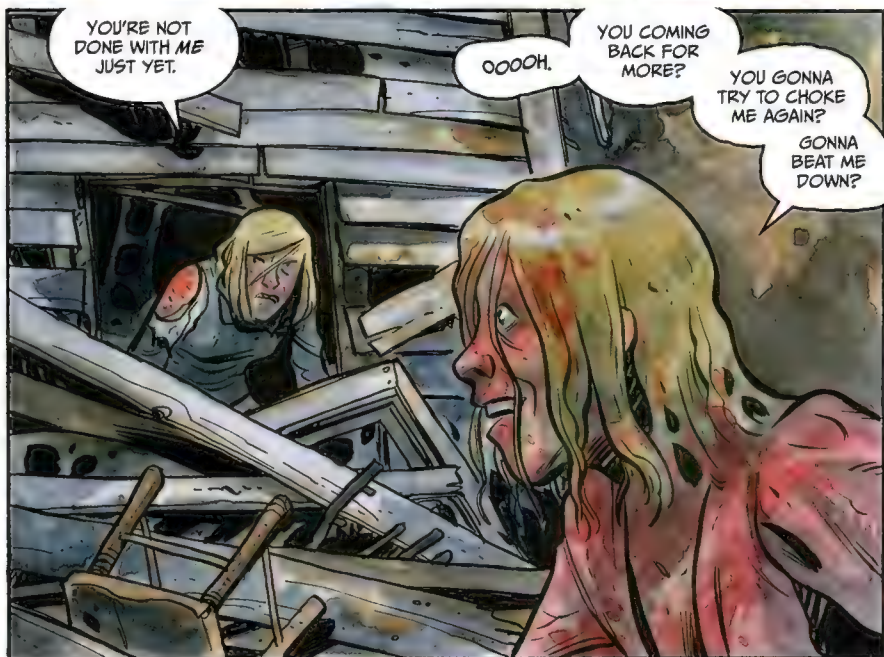
AGGG KHHHH!

GAAAAH!



LET
HER GO,
KAMMI.

LEAVE
HER BE.



YOU'RE NOT
DONE WITH ME
JUST YET.

OOOOH.

YOU COMING
BACK FOR
MORE?

YOU GONNA
TRY TO CHOKE
ME AGAIN?

GONNA
BEAT ME
DOWN?



MAYBE I DID LEARN
SOMETHING FROM
YOU, KAMMI.

BUT I'M
NOT LIKE
YOU.

I DON'T
THINK I COULD
EVER DO THE
THINGS YOU'VE
DONE.



BECAUSE
YOU'RE A SNAKE,
KAMMI.

A SNAKE.



EMMY'S FATHER HAD CALLED DRAGONFLIES SNAKE DOCTORS.

HE SAID THAT WHENEVER YOU SAW ONE, YOU COULD BE CERTAIN THERE WAS A SNAKE NEARBY.

AND NOW EMMY CALLED EVERY SNAKE DOCTOR IN HARROW DOWN AROUND THEM...

...BECAUSE SHE SAW HER OWN SISTER AS THE BIGGEST SERPENT OF ALL...

...A SNAKE WITH A SICKNESS INSIDE...

...A SNAKE THAT NEEDED DOCTORING.



I'LL DO RIGHT BY YOU THIS TIME, KAMMI!

I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU DON'T COME BACK!



AGHK!

WHAT ARE--

NOO!

STOP THIS, EMMY!



DON'T DO THIS!



OH, LORDY!

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?



SISTER, PLEASE!

PLEASE! I'LL BE GOOD-- BETTER!

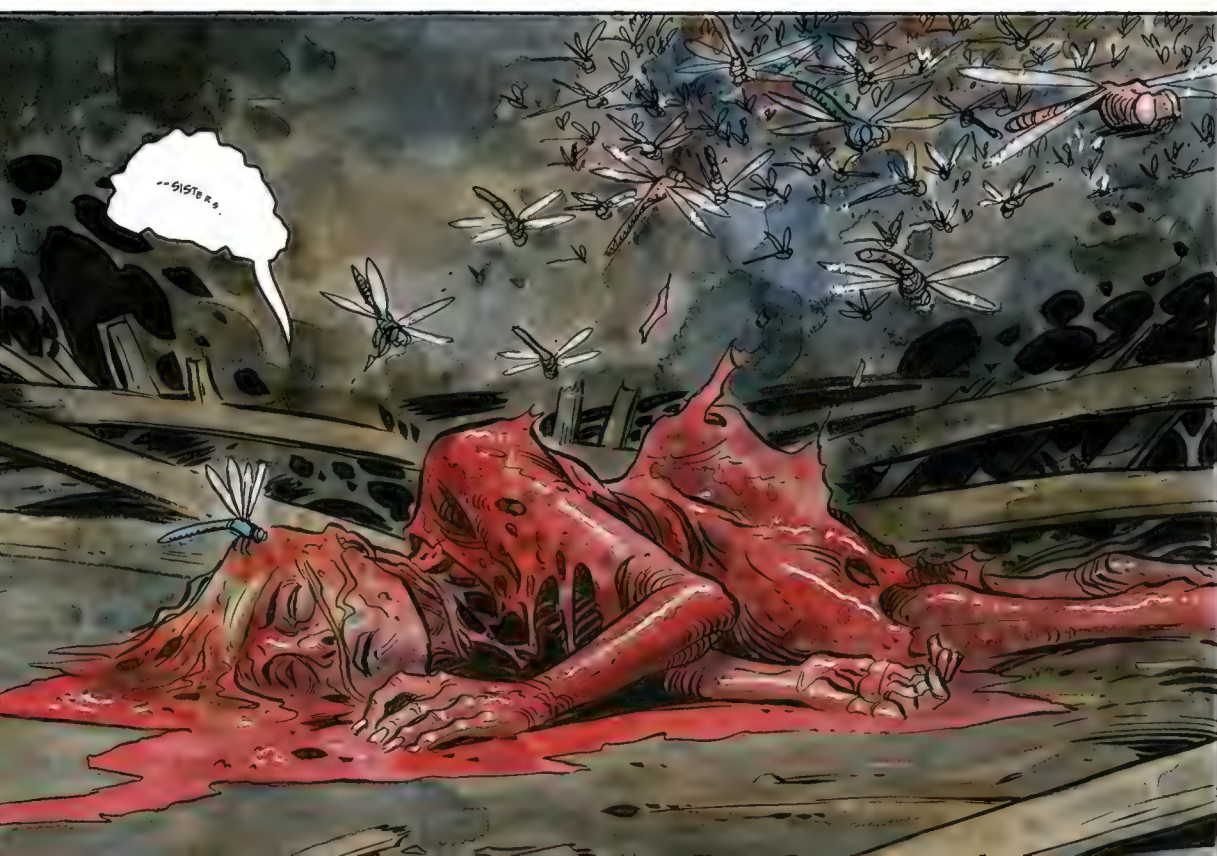
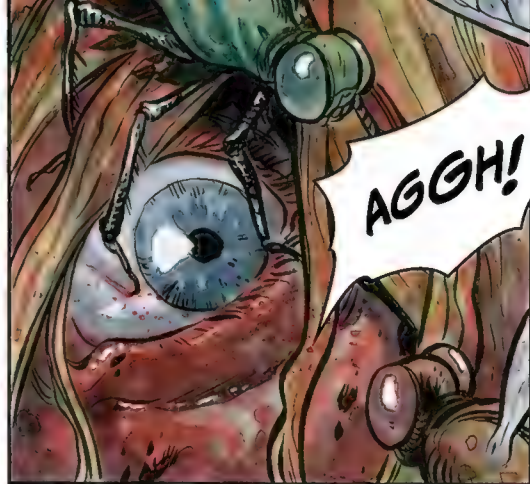
I'LL HELP YOU! I'LL REBUILD!

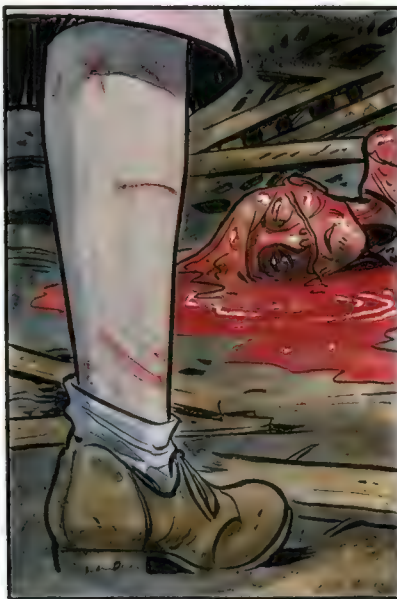
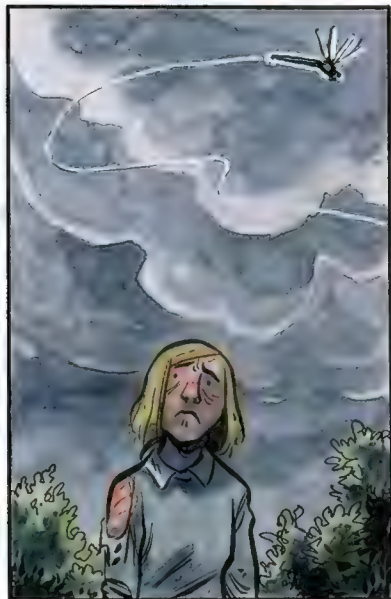
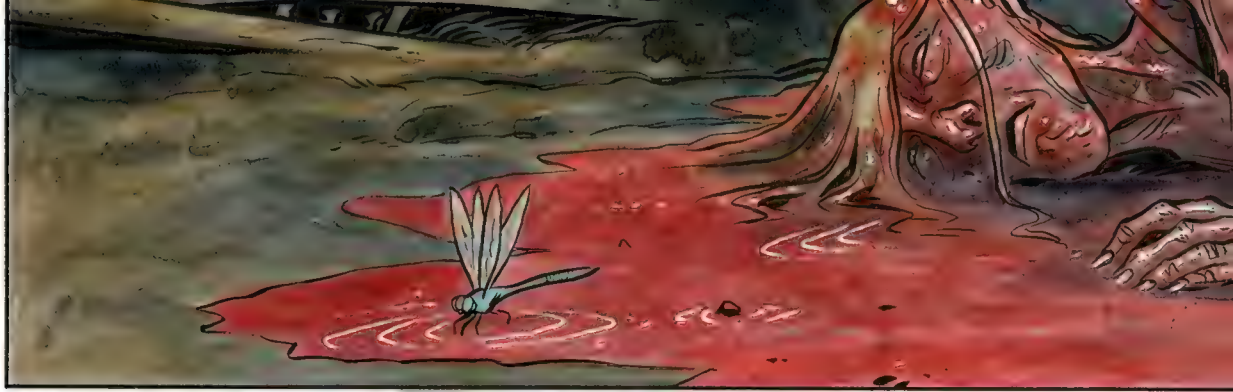
IF HESTER EVER COMES BACK... YOU'LL NEED ME!

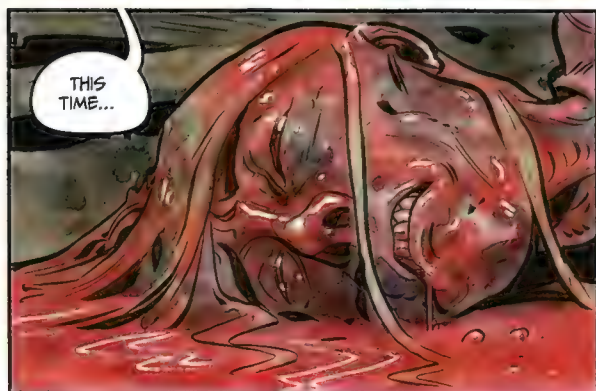
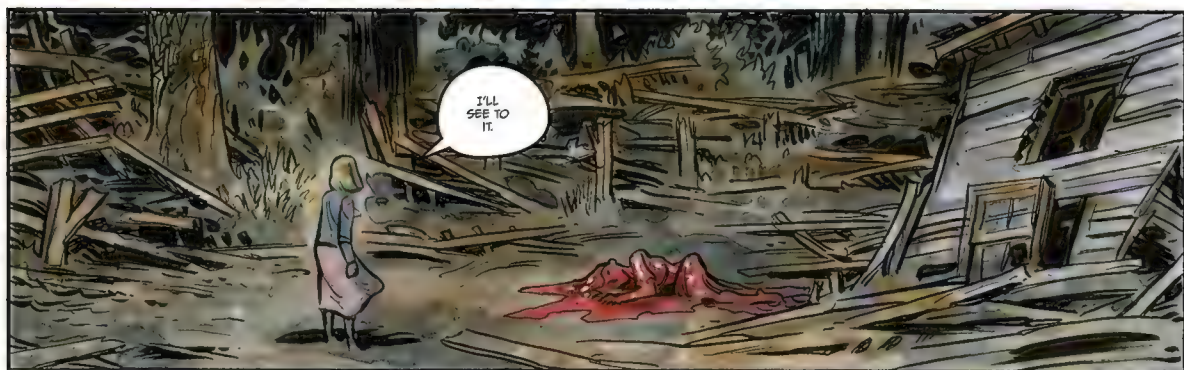
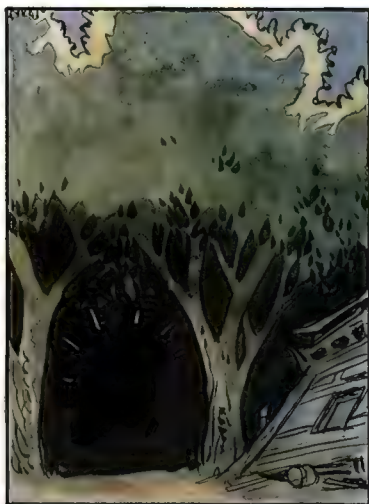
YOU'LL NEED ME IF YOU'RE GOING TO STOP HER!

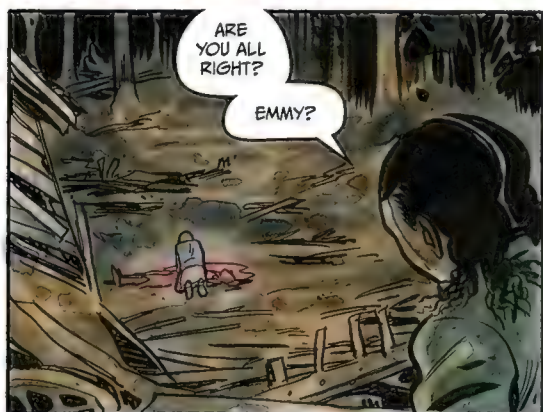
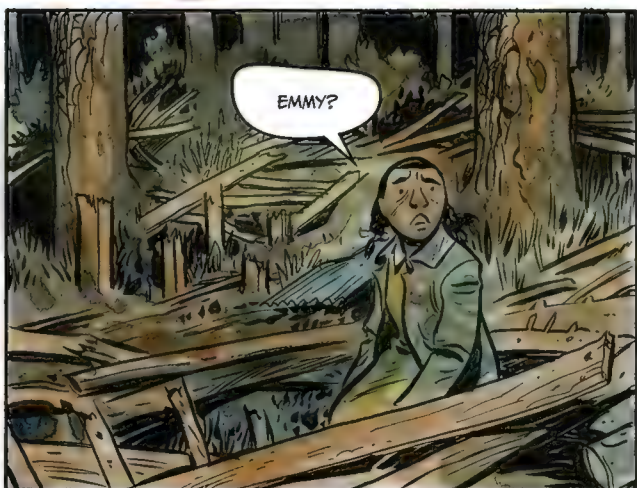
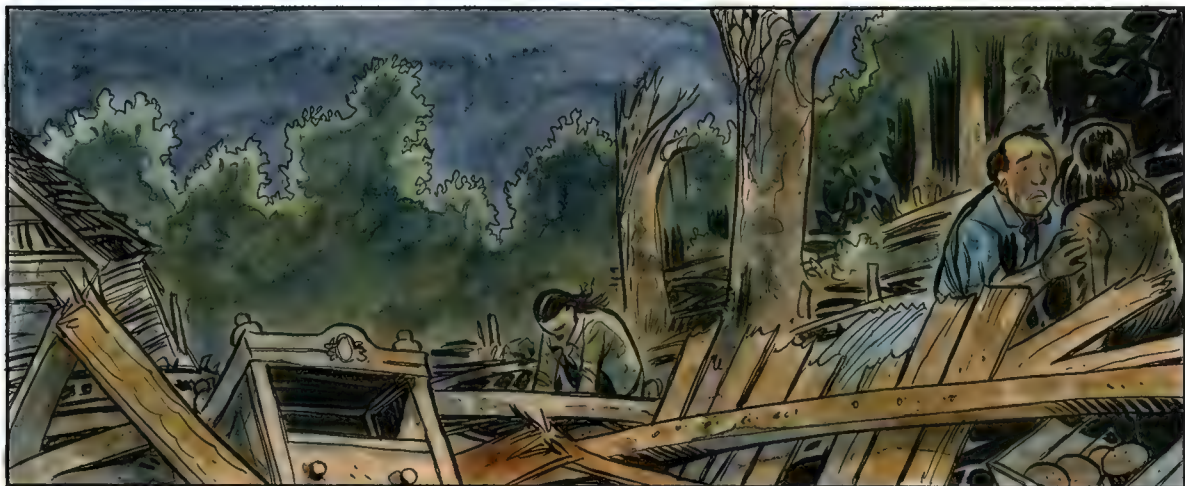


I KNOW.

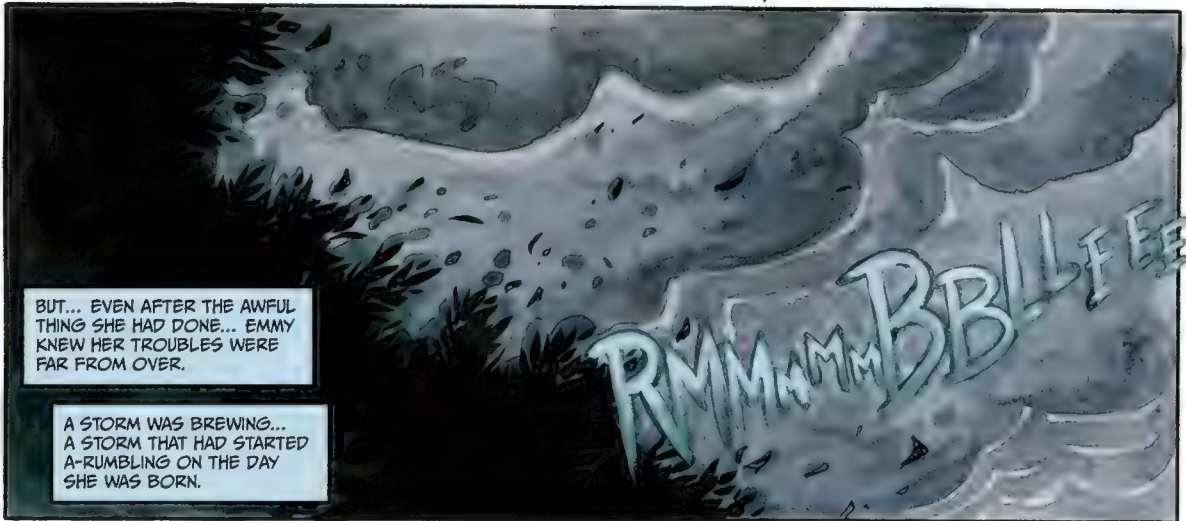
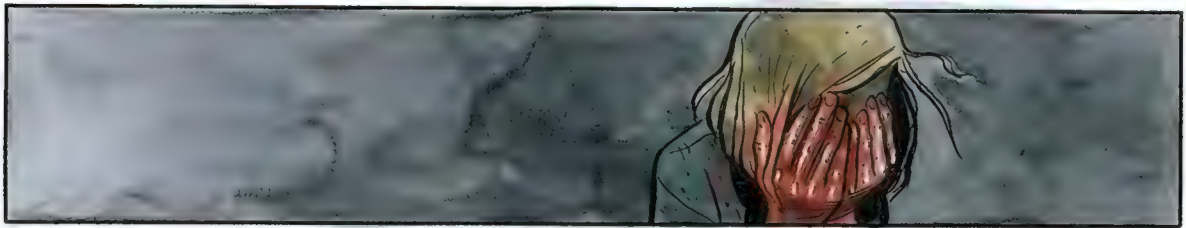
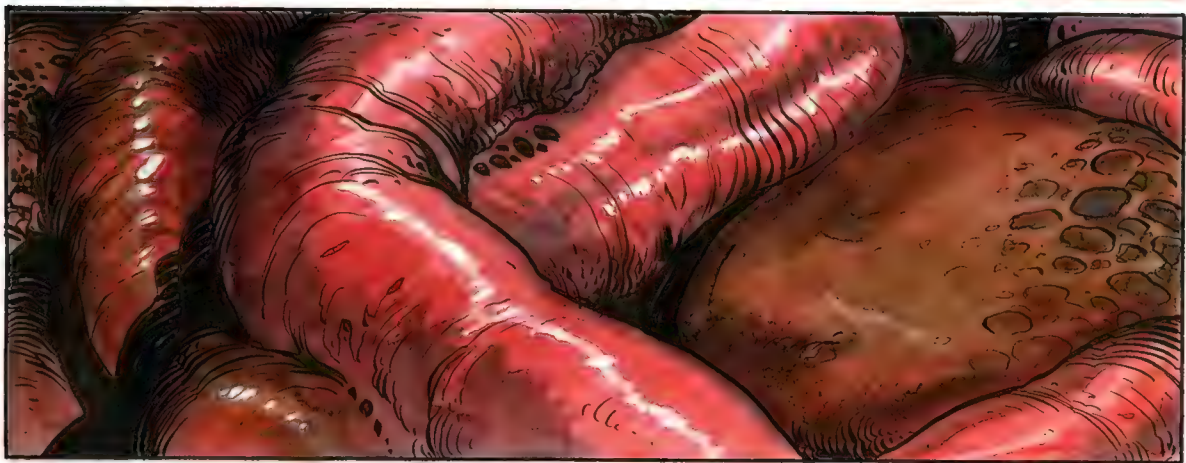








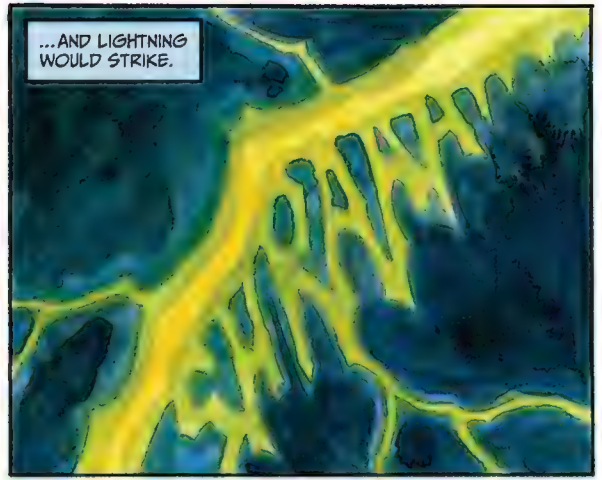






AND SOON ENOUGH, THE
CLOUDS WOULD COME...

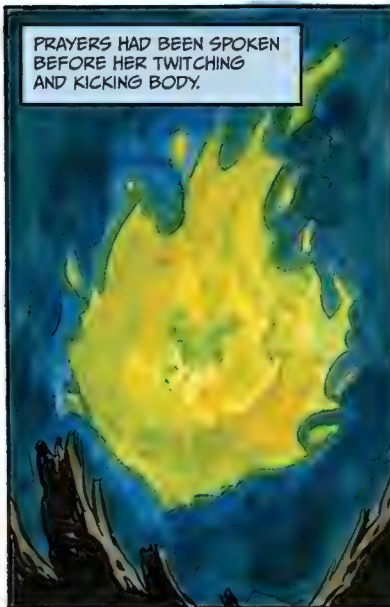
...THE RAIN WOULD POUR
DOWN IN SHEETS...



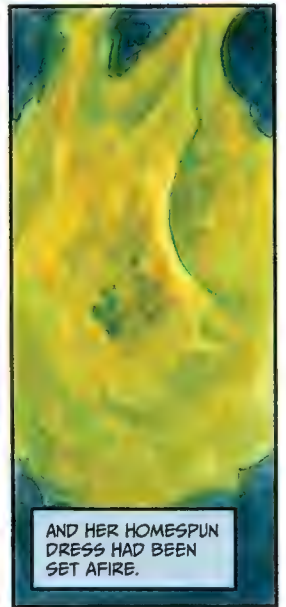
...AND LIGHTNING
WOULD STRIKE.



EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO, THE WITCH
HESTER BECK HAD BEEN LYNCHED
FROM THE BRANCHES OF THAT
OLD TREE.



PRAYERS HAD BEEN SPOKEN
BEFORE HER TWITCHING
AND KICKING BODY.



AND HER HOMESPUN
DRESS HAD BEEN
SET AFIRE.



"IF HESTER EVER COMES BACK," KAMMI HAD
CRIED WITH HER DESPERATE, DYING BREATHS,
"YOU'LL NEED ME!"



"IF HESTER EVER
COMES BACK."

IF



IT HAD NEVER BEEN A
MATTER OF "IF" AT ALL.

IT HAD ONLY BEEN A
MATTER OF WHEN.



...NOT
THE END...

...NEVER
THE END FOR
ME...



...I'LL BE
BACK...

...AGAIN...

...KEEP WATCH
AND BE READY...



...WHETHER
TO TEND OR
MURDER...

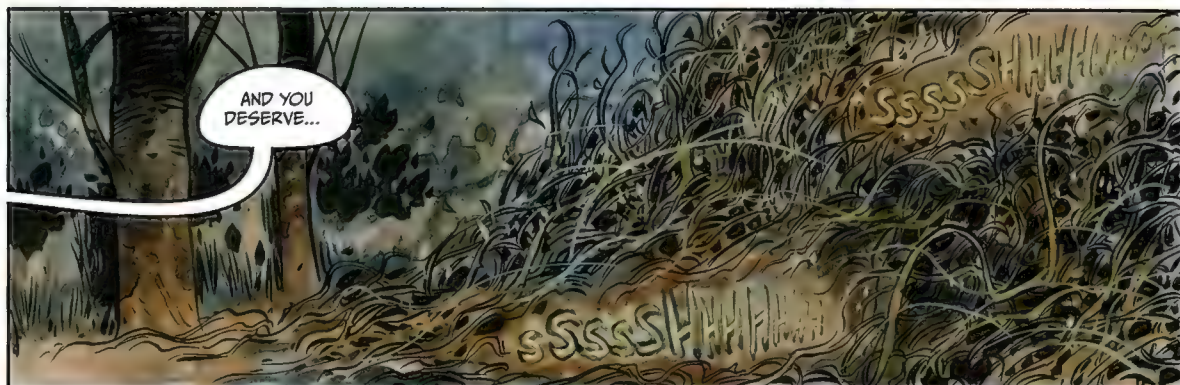
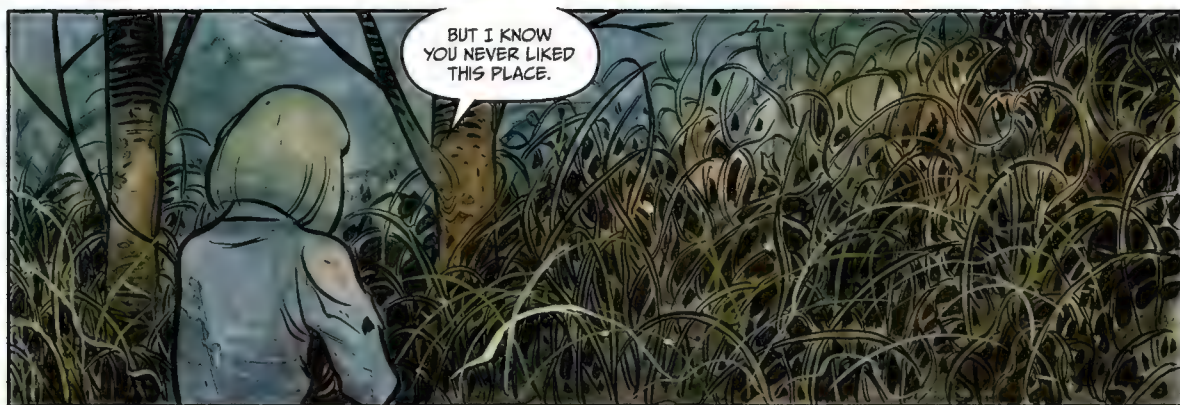
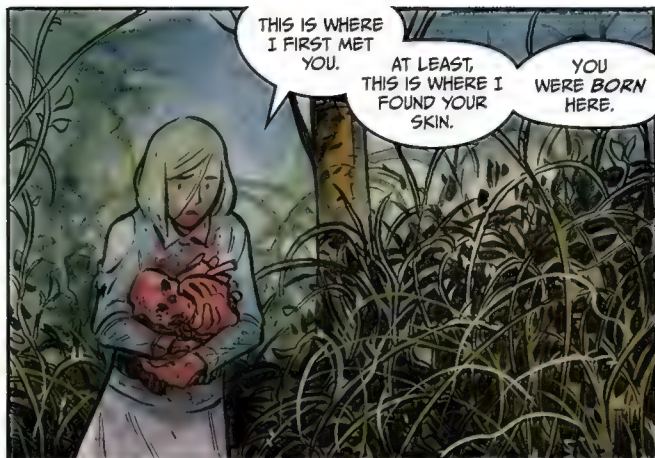
...BUT I'LL
SEE YOU ALL
ONCE MORE!

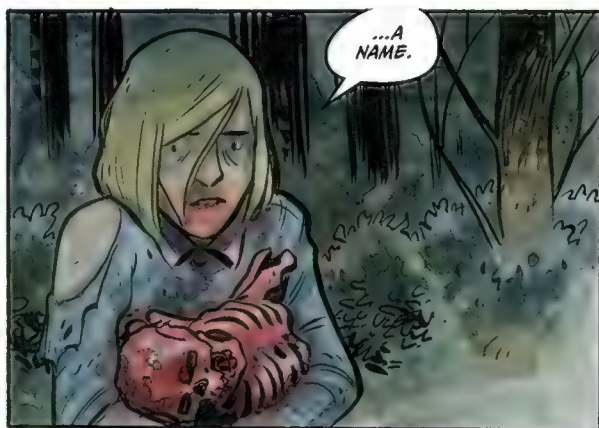


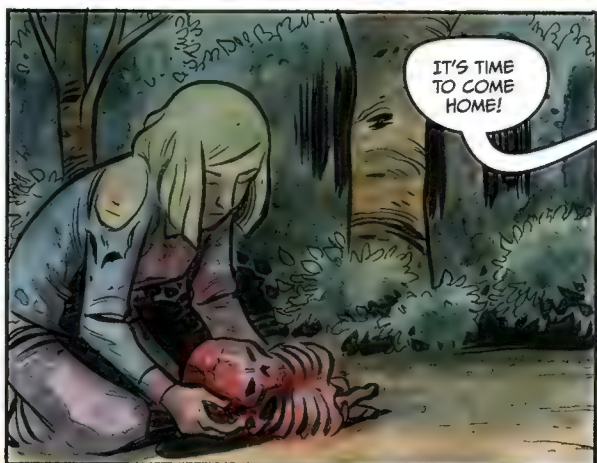


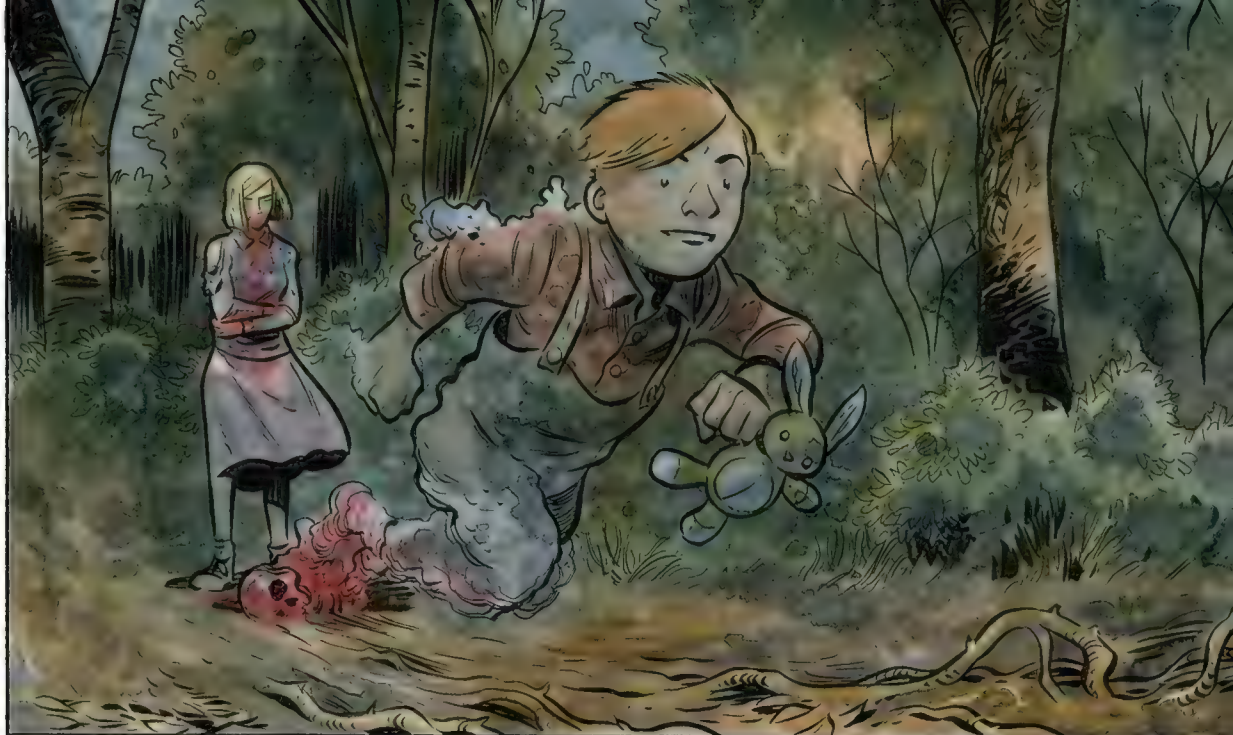
TWENTY-NINE







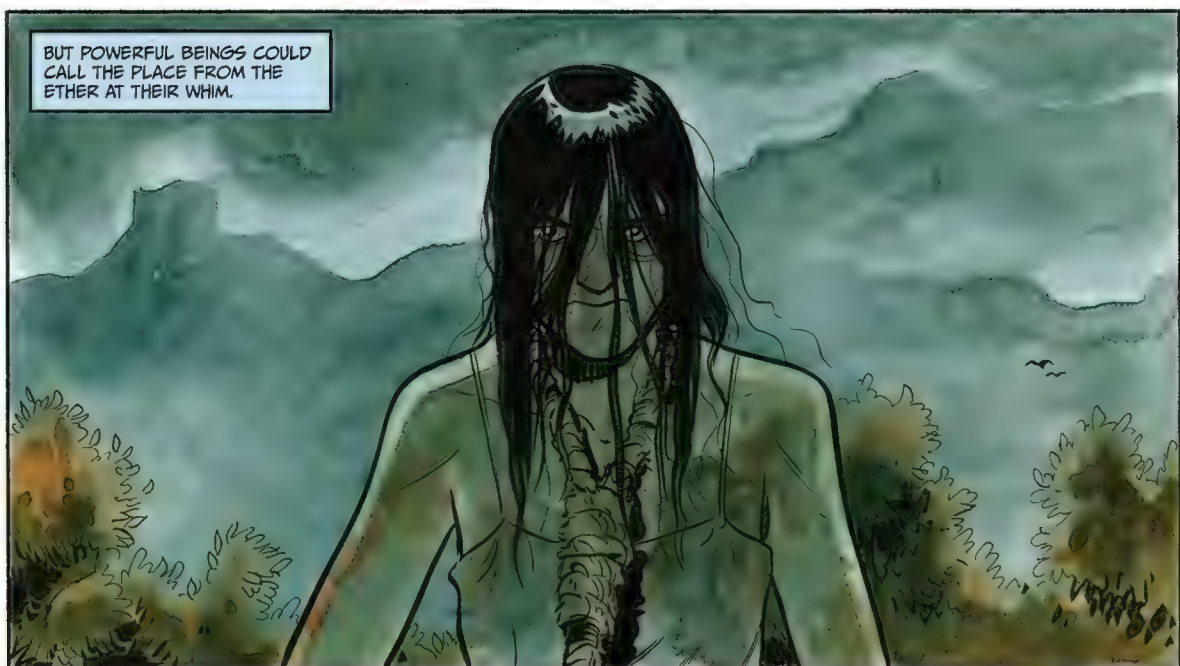






THE MEETING LODGE WAS
SAID TO APPEAR ONLY EVERY
TEN YEARS FOR A CONCLAVE...

...OR DURING TIMES OF
GREAT AUSPICE OR TUMULT.

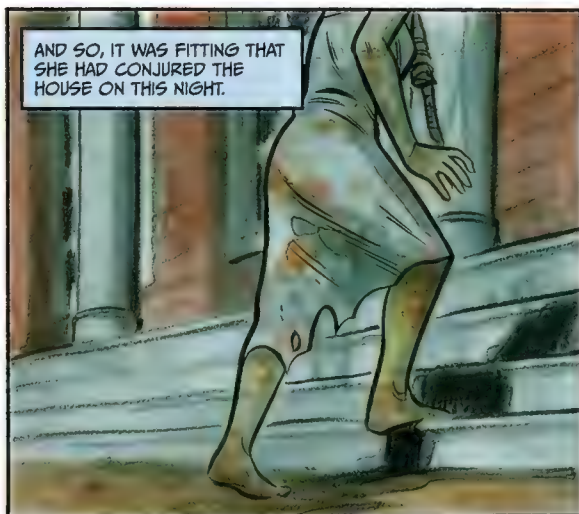


BUT POWERFUL BEINGS COULD
CALL THE PLACE FROM THE
ETHER AT THEIR WHIM.

HESTER HAD FIRST VISITED
THE LODGE WHEN SHE
FIRST MET HER FAMILY.



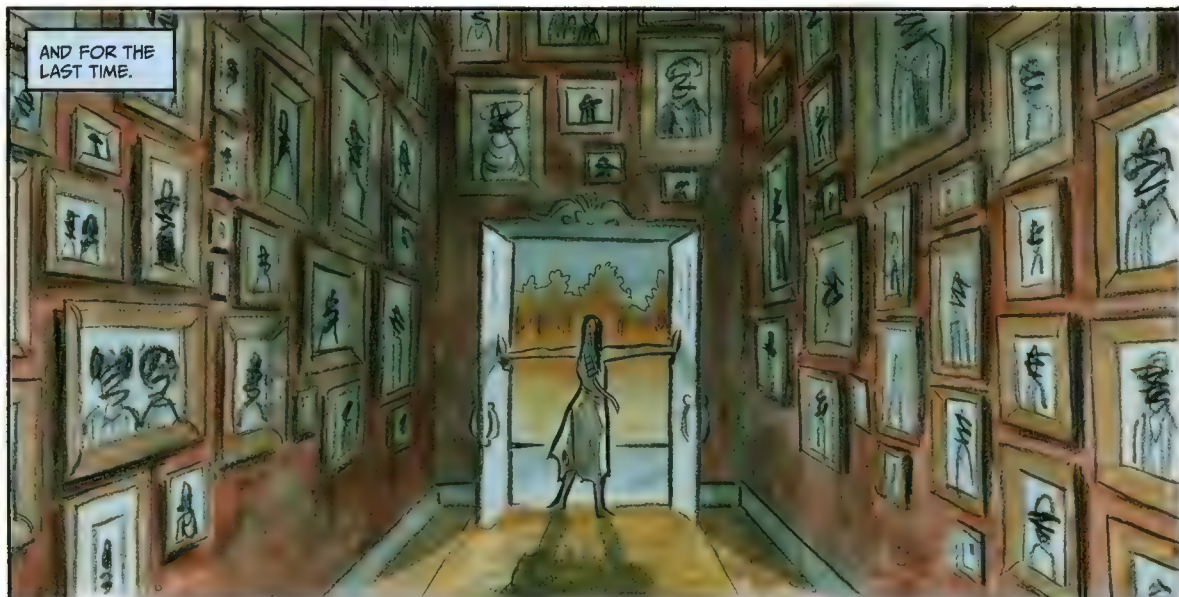
AND SO, IT WAS FITTING THAT
SHE HAD CONJURED THE
HOUSE ON THIS NIGHT.

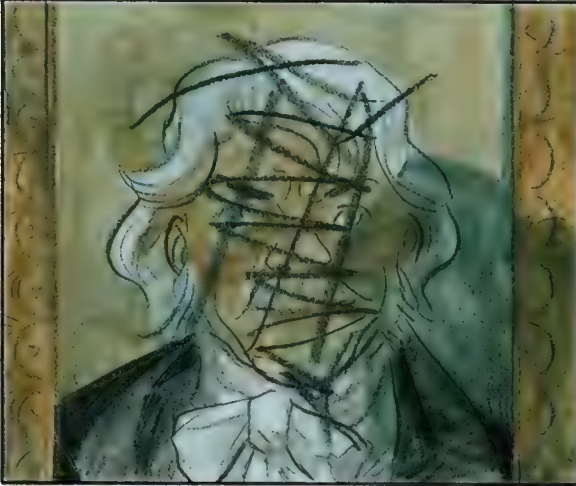


TONIGHT, SHE WOULD SEE
HER FAMILY ONCE MORE.



AND FOR THE
LAST TIME.







THAT JUST
AIN'T SO,
SISTER.

ONCE, YOU MIGHT HAVE
BEEN ALONE...IN THAT COLD,
DARK PLACE TO WHICH YOU
WERE BANISHED.

BUT YOU'RE BACK
NOW, AND YOUR KIN IS
HERE TO WELCOME
YOU...



...TO GUIDE
YOU...

...TO HELP
YOU...

... 'CAUSE THAT'S
WHAT FAMILY
DOES.



YOU WOULDN'T BE
HERE--NOT A ONE OF
YOU--IF I HADN'T
SUMMONED YOU.

I CALLED, THOUGH,
AND YOU CAME
RUNNING.

LIKE HOUNDS
TO THEIR MASTER'S
WHISTLE.



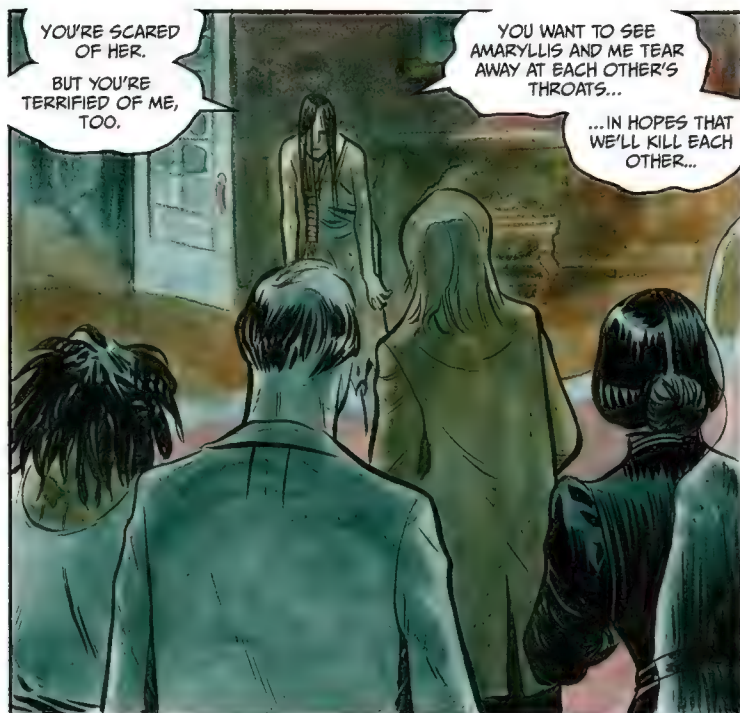
THAT MIGHT
BE TRUE,
SISTER.

WE HEARD YOU
BECKONING TO US AND
WE ANSWERED.

BUT WE WOULD
HAVE SOUGHT YOU OUT
REGARDLESS.

SURELY, YOU
MUST KNOW
THAT.





YOU'RE SCARED
OF HER.
BUT YOU'RE
TERRIFIED OF ME,
TOO.

YOU WANT TO SEE
AMARYLLIS AND ME TEAR
AWAY AT EACH OTHER'S
THROATS...

...IN HOPES THAT
WE'LL KILL EACH
OTHER...



...AND TAKE THE
BURDEN FROM YOUR
SHOULDERS.



WE WERE
WRONG, HESTER.

WE
REALIZE
THAT.

WE WERE WRONG
TO PLANT THE SEEDS
OF DISTRUST AMONG YOUR
CREATIONS...WRONG TO
JUDGE YOU AND PLOT
AGAINST YOU.



OUR
TRADITIONS...
...THEY'RE
OLD AND
OUTDATED.

WE
SEE THAT
NOW.

IT'S OUR
GREAT SHAME THAT
WE FOLLOWED THEM
SO BLINDLY.



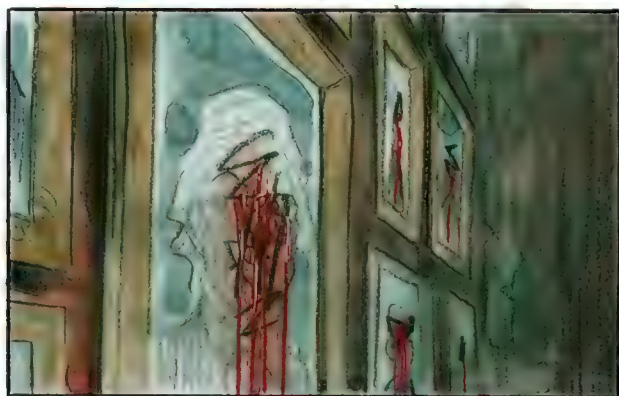
IS THAT
THE TRUTH
OF IT?

NOT EVEN A
BREATH'S LENGTH AGO,
YOU TOLD ME THAT AMARYLLIS
SHOULD BE REPROVED FOR
HER CRIMES.

AND NOW YOUR
SERPENT'S TONGUE WAGS,
TRYING TO CONVINCE ME THAT
YOU'VE SEEN THE ERROR OF
YOUR BULLISH WAYS.



I WAS
NOT REBORN
AS A FOOL.





GO AHEAD,
BROTHER LEVI...
BROTHER PSYCHOPOMP...

...YOU'VE GOT
THE DYING TO LEAD
TO THE HEREAFTER..

...AND
YOU'RE AMONGST
THEM.



CRUEL, COLD
WILLA...

...TRYING TO KNIT
TOGETHER FATE IN
SUCH A WAY TO SAVE
YOURSELF...

...ALL THE WHILE
KNOWING IT IS A
WASTED EFFORT.



POOR
SILENT, UNSEEN
MILDRED...

...ALWAYS
FOLLOWED BY
MISFORTUNE.
IT'S FINALLY
CAUGHT UP WITH
YOU.



KAINE...
THE BRINGER OF
NIGHTMARES...

...NOW
TRAPPED IN A
NIGHTMARE OF
YOUR OWN.



CORBIN...WHO CAN
CONTROL THE SOULS
OF THOSE YOU
MURDER...

...BUT IS
POWERLESS
WHEN YOU'VE BEEN
MURDERED
YOURSELF.



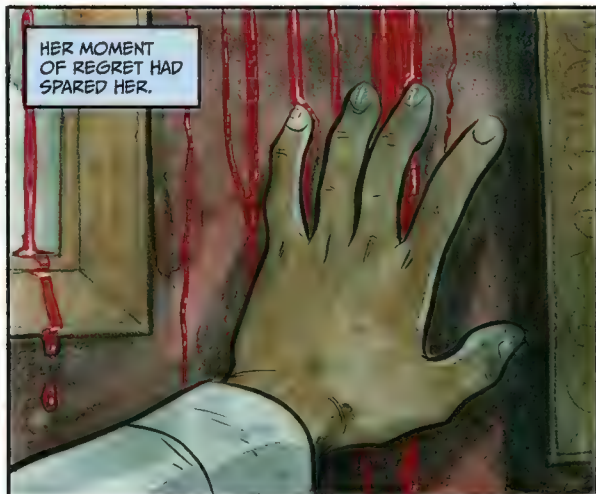
AND...

...ODESSA?

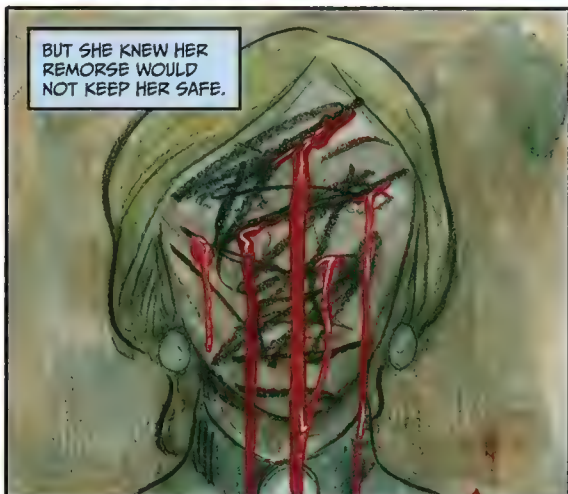


JUST BEFORE HESTER HAD WORKED
HER VENGEANCE UPON THE FAMILY,
ODESSA HAD LOOKED AWAY.

IN HER SHAME, SHE
WAS UNABLE TO MEET
HER SISTER'S GAZE.



HER MOMENT
OF REGRET HAD
SPARED HER.



BUT SHE KNEW HER
REMORSE WOULD
NOT KEEP HER SAFE.

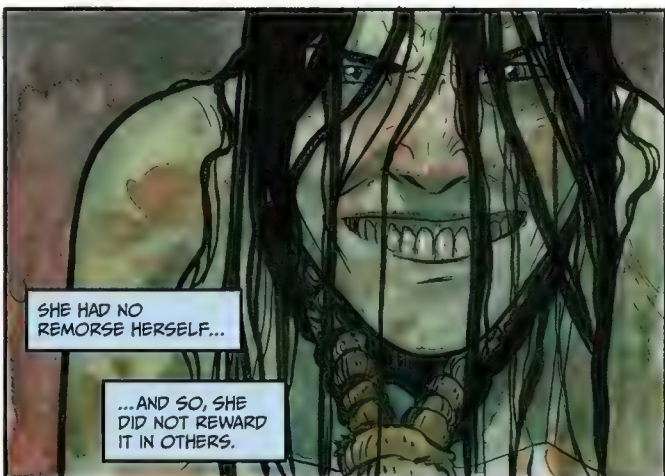


HESTER SAW HERSELF AS
A GODDESS...AND MAYBE
THAT'S JUST WHAT SHE WAS.

ODESSA--
WHERE ARE YOU
OFF TO?

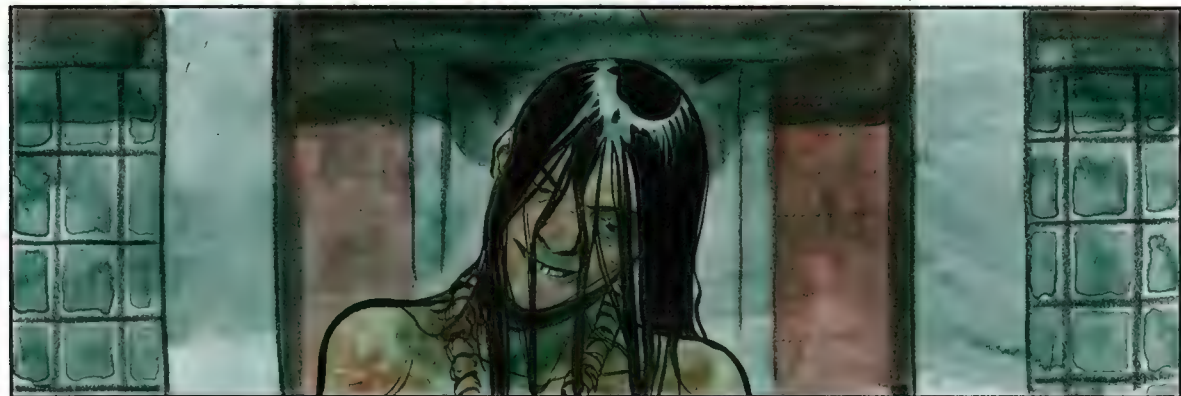
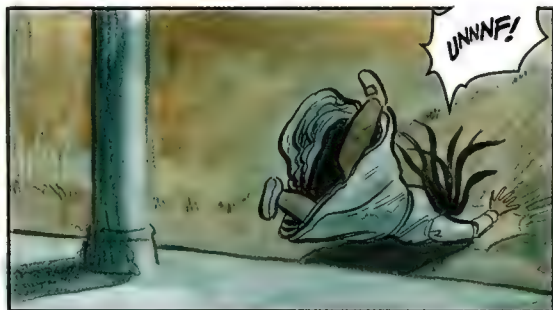


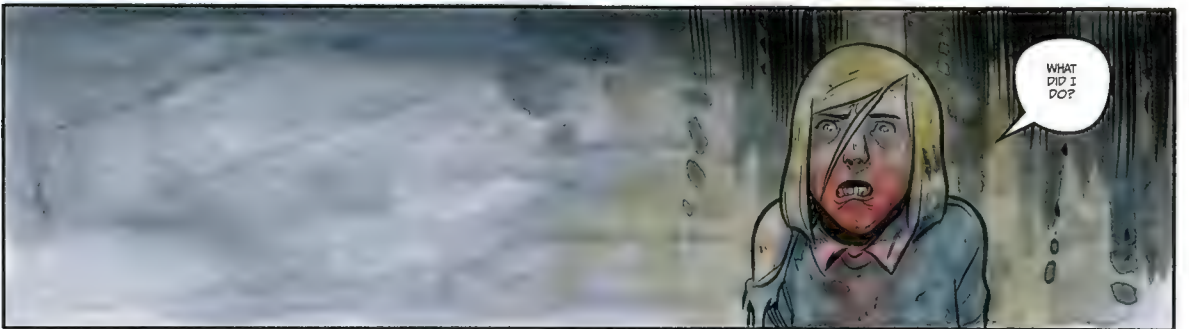
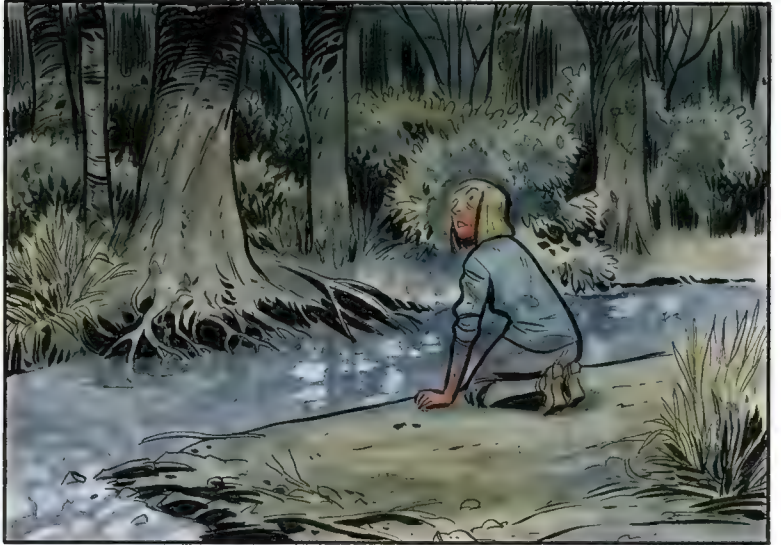
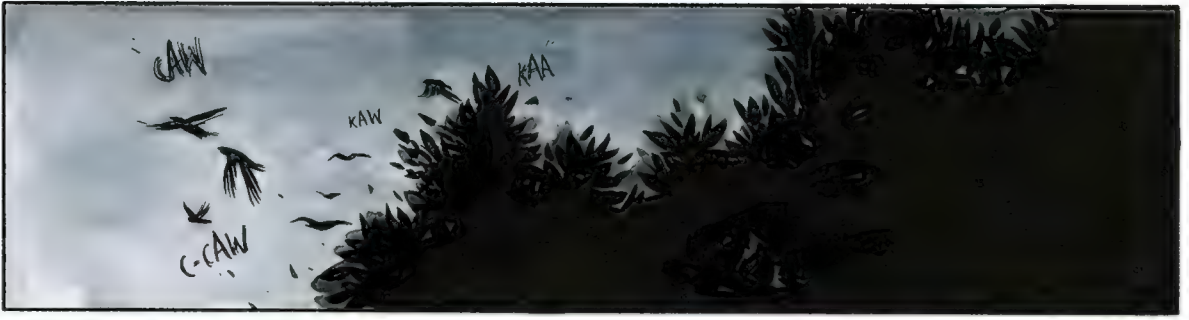
BUT SHE WAS NOT
A MERCIFUL SPIRIT.



SHE HAD NO
REMORSE HERSELF...

...AND SO, SHE
DID NOT REWARD
IT IN OTHERS.

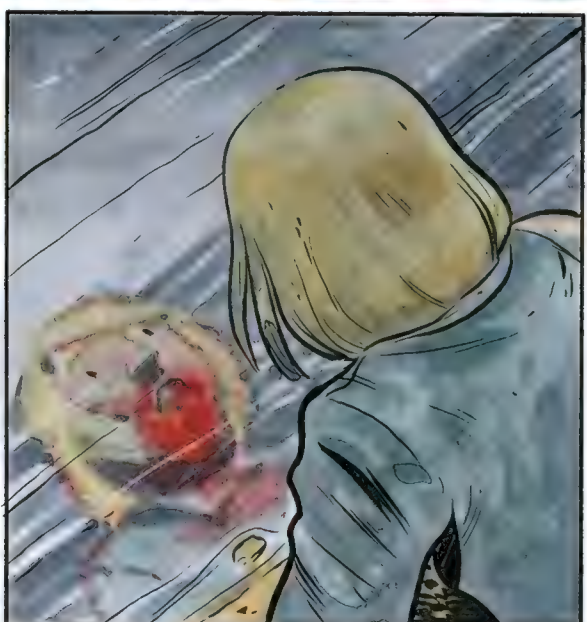






PLEASE...
LET IT BE
GONE...

...LET
ME FEEL
CLEAN...

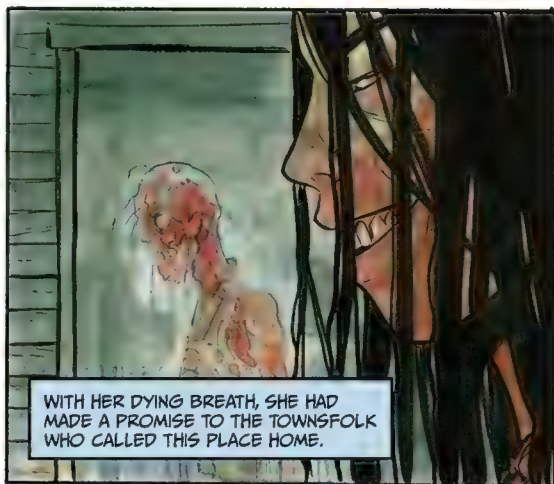




IT HAD BEEN EIGHTEEN YEARS
SINCE HESTER BECK WALKED
ALONG THE STREETS OF HARROW.



SO MUCH HAD
CHANGED IN
ALL THAT TIME.



WITH HER DYING BREATH, SHE HAD
MADE A PROMISE TO THE TOWNSFOLK
WHO CALLED THIS PLACE HOME.



...NOT THE
END...

...NEVER THE
END FOR ME...

...I'LL
BE BACK...
AGAIN...

...KEEP
WATCH AND
BE READY...

...WHETHER
TO TEND OR
MURDER...

...BUT I'LL
SEE YOU ALL
ONCE MORE...



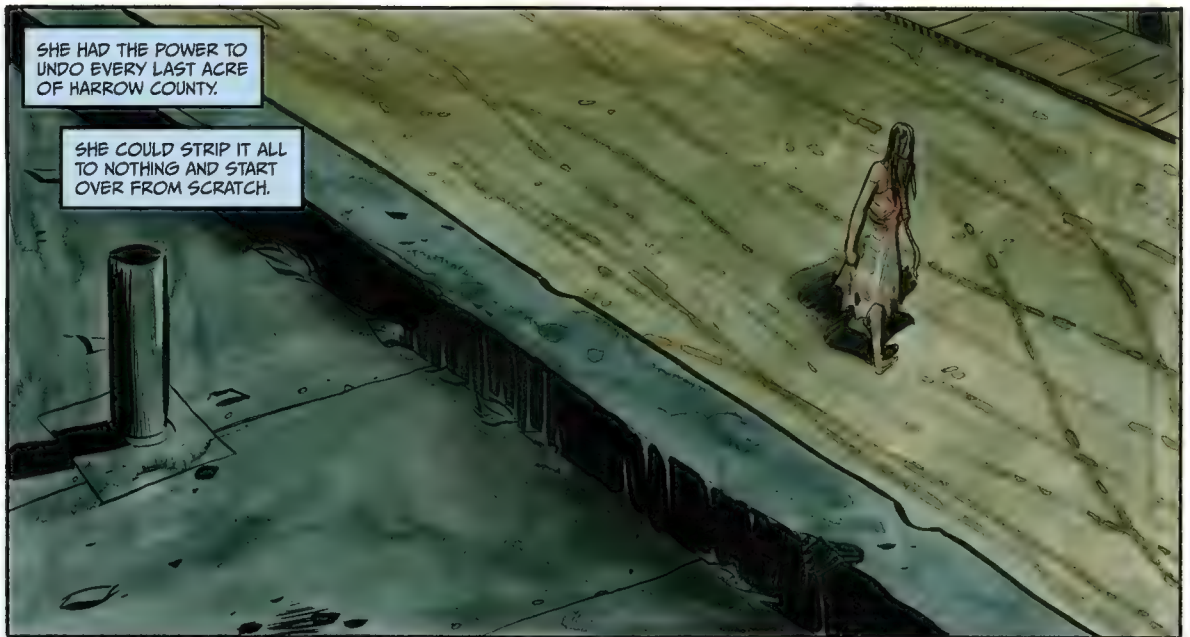
HER PROMISE, UNLIKE HER
SURROUNDINGS, HAD NOT
CHANGED IN ALL THOSE YEARS.



"TO TEND OR TO MURDER."



SHE DID NOT YET
KNOW WHICH TASK
SHE WOULD UNDERTAKE.

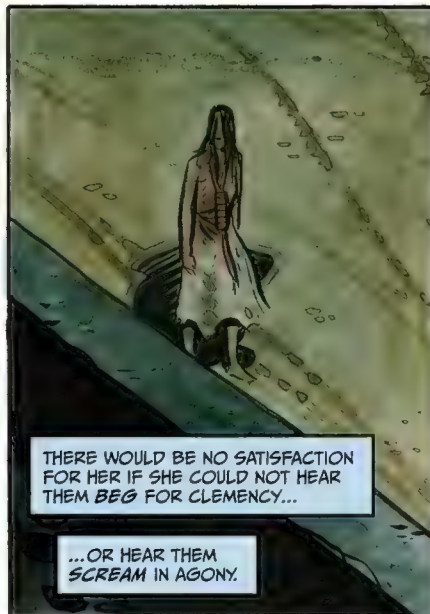


SHE HAD THE POWER TO
UNDO EVERY LAST ACRE
OF HARROW COUNTY.

SHE COULD STRIP IT ALL
TO NOTHING AND START
OVER FROM SCRATCH.



BUT IF SHE DID THAT,
SHE WOULD NOT HAVE
THE PLEASURE OF FACING
HER FLOCK ONCE MORE.



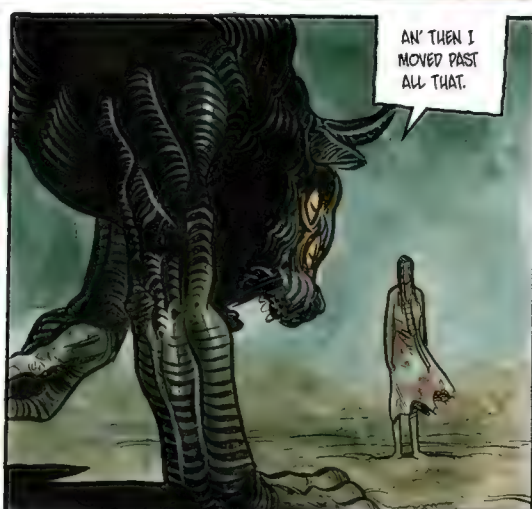
THERE WOULD BE NO SATISFACTION
FOR HER IF SHE COULD NOT HEAR
THEM *BEG* FOR CLEMENCY...

...OR HEAR THEM
SCREAM IN AGONY.



WHAT ARE YOU
DOING LURKING ABOUT
UP THERE?

COME ON
DOWN AND LET
ME LOOK AT
YOU--





WHY THA HELL
DID YEW DECIDE
TA COME BACK
NOW?



YOU...

YOU'RE
WORRIED ABOUT
HER, AREN'T
YOU?

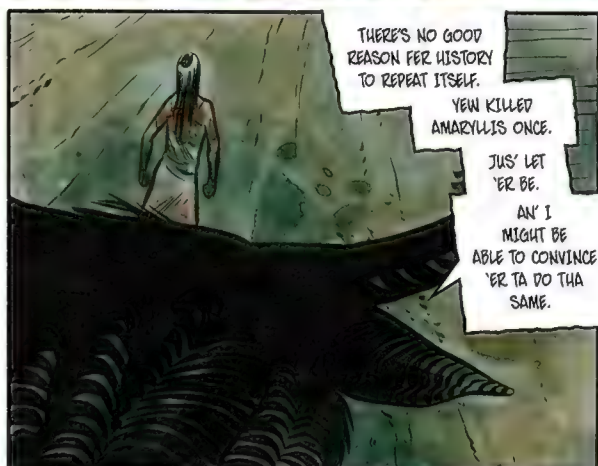
YOU'RE
WORRIED ABOUT
EMMY.

YOU'RE
AFRAID I
MIGHT KILL
HER.



OR SHE
MIGHT KILL
YEW.

FEH.



THERE'S NO GOOD
REASON FER HISTORY
TO REPEAT ITSELF.

YEW KILLED
AMARYLLIS ONCE.

JUS' LET
'ER BE.

AN' I
MIGHT BE
ABLE TO CONVINCE
'ER TA DO THA
SAME.



YOU THINK YOU CAN
HAVE BOTH YOUR SPECIAL
GIRLS BACK AGAIN,
DON'T YOU?

AMARYLLIS AND
HESTER, OUT ROAMING
THE WORLD, GIVING
EACH OTHER A
WIDE BERTH.

BUT I DON'T
SUPPOSE I'M GOING
TO LET THAT
HAPPEN.

THAT GIRL
HAS POWER...AND
THAT POWER
BELONGS
TO ME.

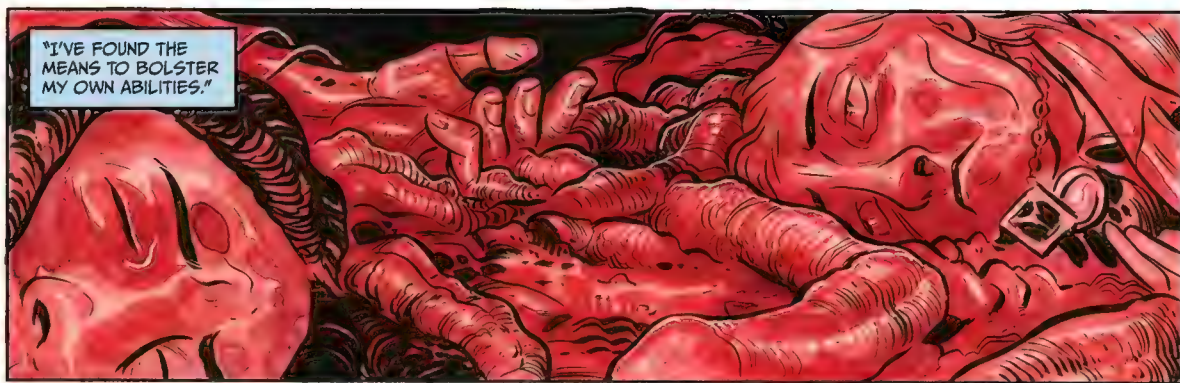


SHE'S DONE
TAKEN KAMMI'S POWERS
FOR 'ER OWN.

SHE'S JUS' AS
POWERFUL AS YEW
NOW...MAYBE MORE
POWERFUL.



OH, I
WOULDN'T
WORRY ABOUT
THAT.





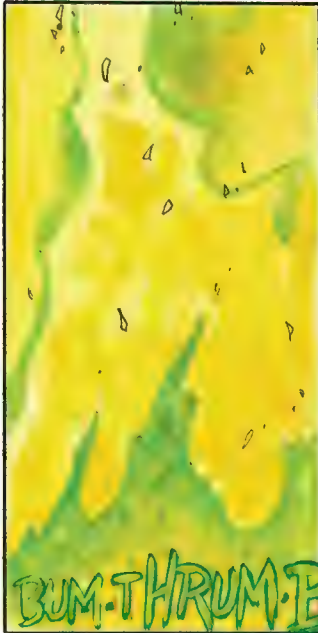
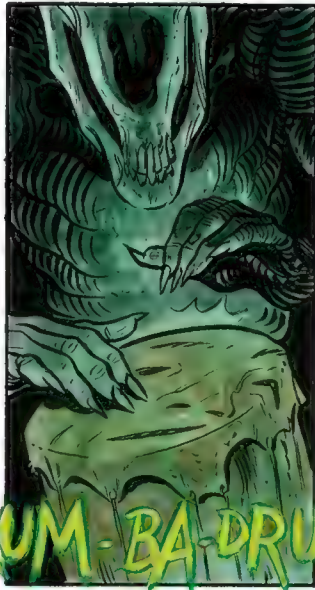
THIRTY

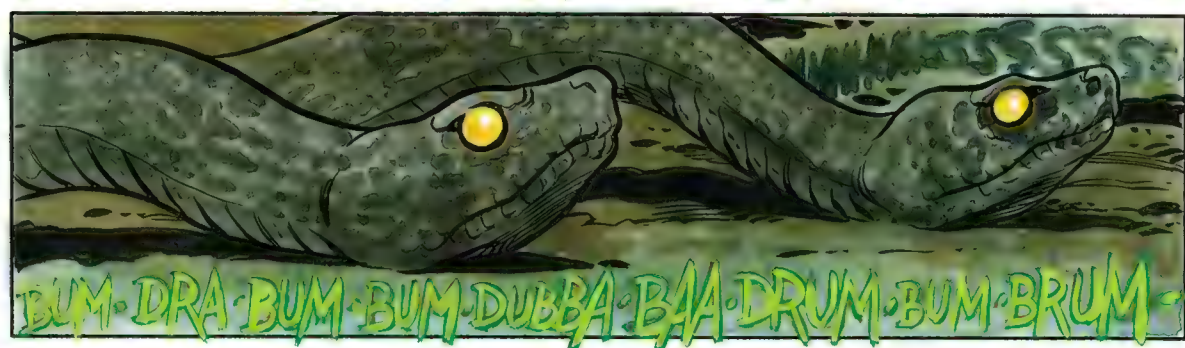
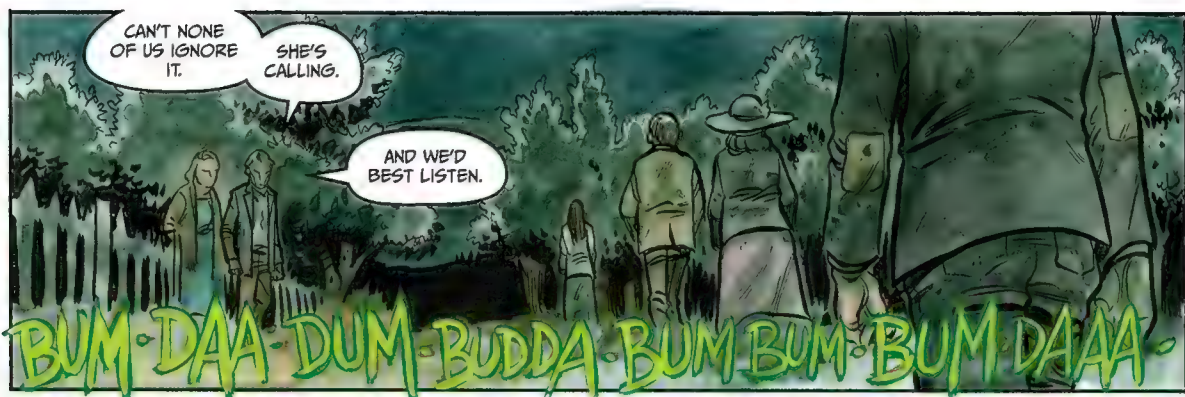


FOLKS WHO
REMEMBER
THAT NIGHT...

...AND THERE ARE
NONE TOO MANY
OF THEM LEFT...

...SPOKE OF A
FIRE BLAZING ON
SUMMIT RIDGE...







PRISCILLA!

WHAT ARE YOU--

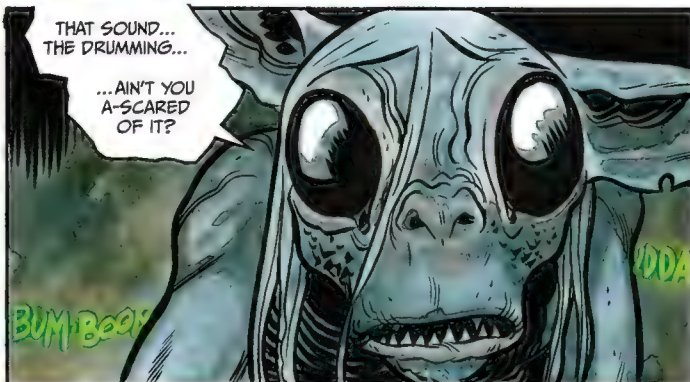
EMMY SAID I WAS TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU. SHE SAID I WAS TO KEEP YOU SAFE.



DON'T YOU PAW AT ME!

I DON'T NEED YOU TO WATCH OVER ME.

I...



THAT SOUND... THE DRUMMING...

...AIN'T YOU A-SCARED OF IT?



WHAT IF I AM? BUT I CAN'T JUST CRAWL INTO SOME HOLE AND HIDE.

THOSE PEOPLE... THEY'RE MY NEIGHBORS... MY FRIENDS.



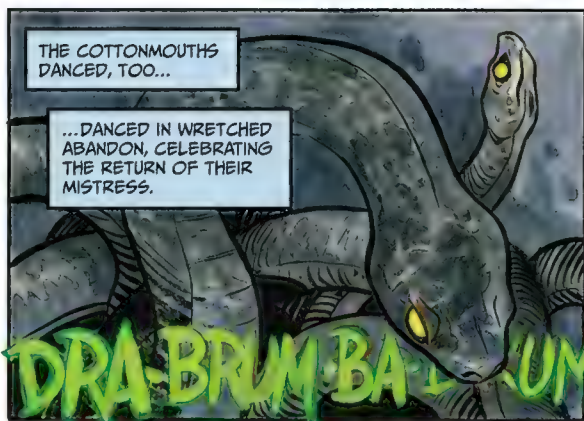
I'M SUPPOSED TO LOOK AFTER THEM... THE WAY EMMY SENT YOU TO LOOK AFTER ME.

WHEN KAMMI CAME... A GOOD MANY OF THEM DIED BECAUSE I COULDN'T PROTECT THEM.

I LET THEM DOWN.



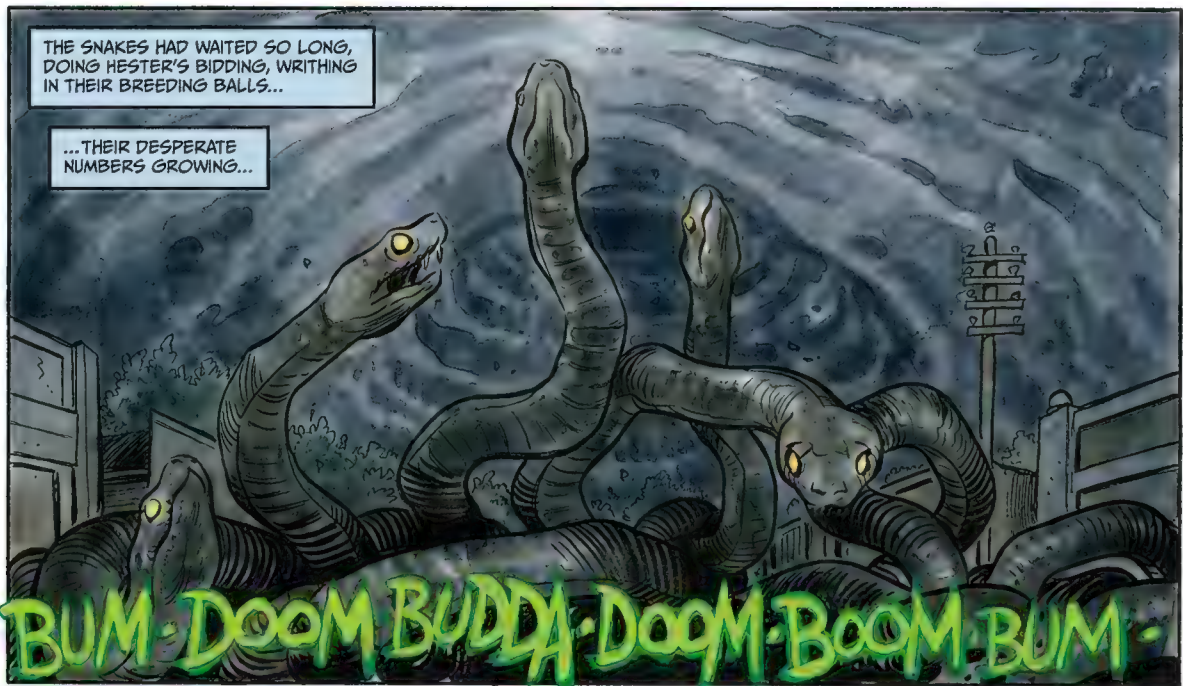
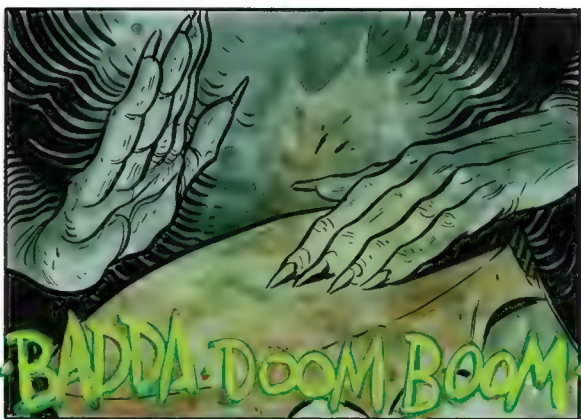
I DON'T PLAN ON FAILING THEM AGAIN.



THE COTTONMOUTHS
DANCED, TOO...

...DANCED IN WRETCHED
ABANDON, CELEBRATING
THE RETURN OF THEIR
MISTRESS.

DRA-BRUM-BAL-LUM-BADDA-DOOM-BOOM



THE SNAKES HAD WAITED SO LONG,
DOING HESTER'S BIDDING, WRITHING
IN THEIR BREEDING BALLS...

...THEIR DESPERATE
NUMBERS GROWING...

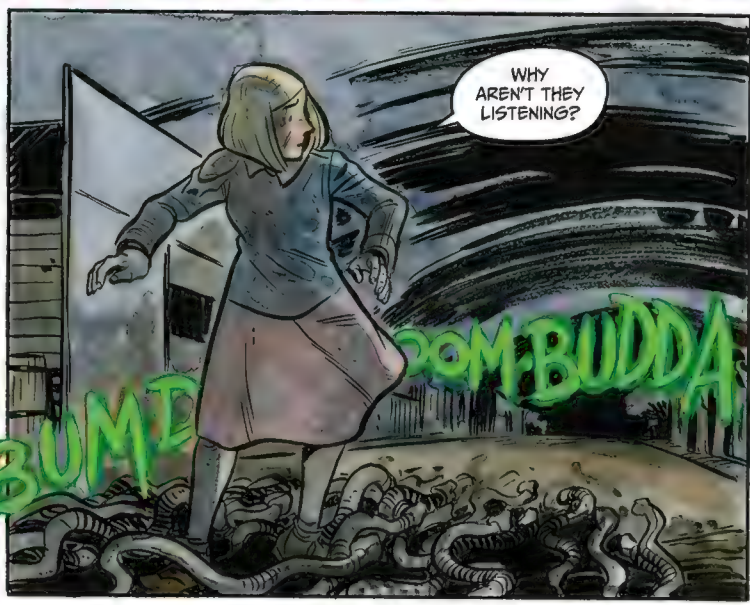
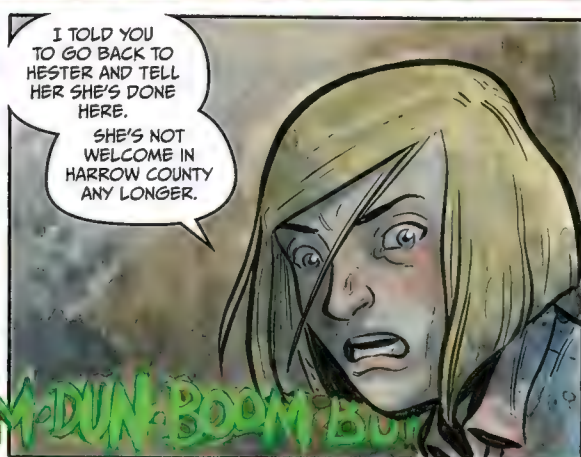
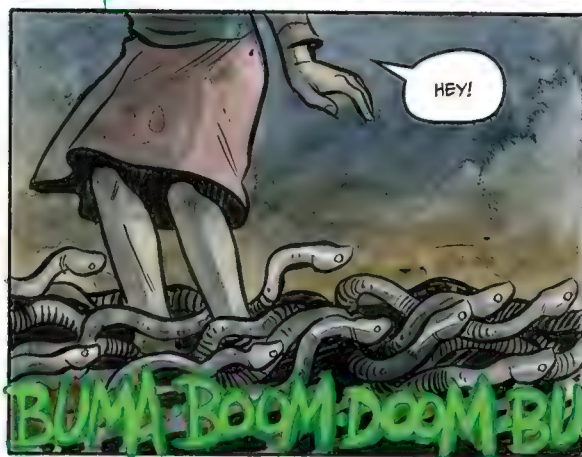
BUM-DOOM BUDDA-DOOM-BOOM-BUM-



...NEVER SURE IF THE WITCH
OF HARROW COUNTY WOULD
TRULY COME BACK TO THEM.

THAT'S
JUST ABOUT
FAR ENOUGH.

BOOOM BODDA-BUNN-DUN-DOOM

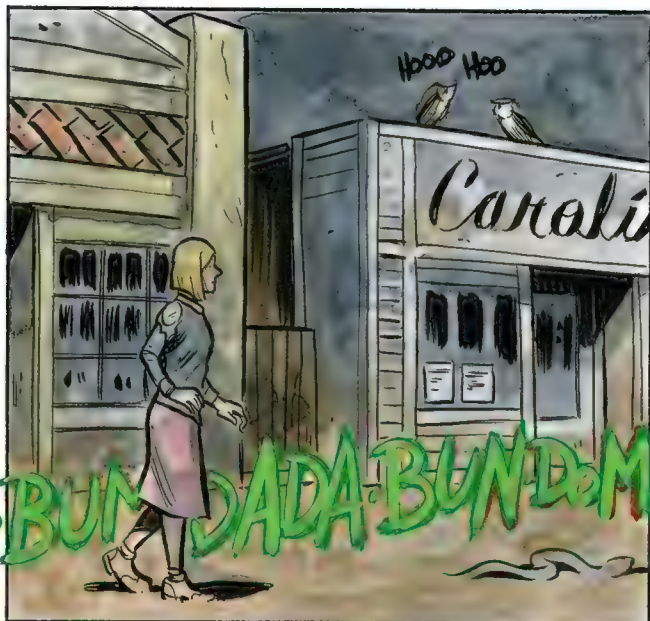




DAMN.

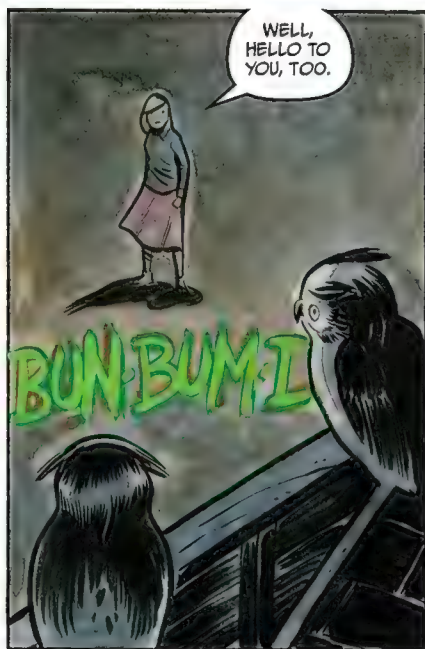
SHE'S STRONGER THAN I SUSPECTED.

EVEN WITH THE EXTRA POWER I'VE TAKEN ON... HESTER'S STILL TOO STRONG FOR ME TO JUST PUSH AWAY.



Hoo Hoo

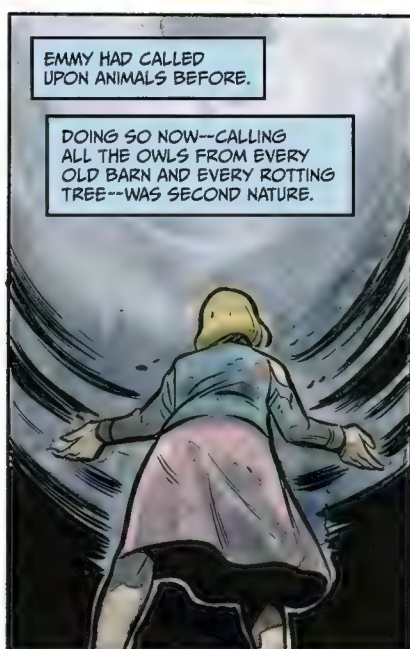
Carol's



WELL, HELLO TO YOU, TOO.



YOU'VE GIVEN ME AN IDEA.



EMMY HAD CALLED UPON ANIMALS BEFORE.

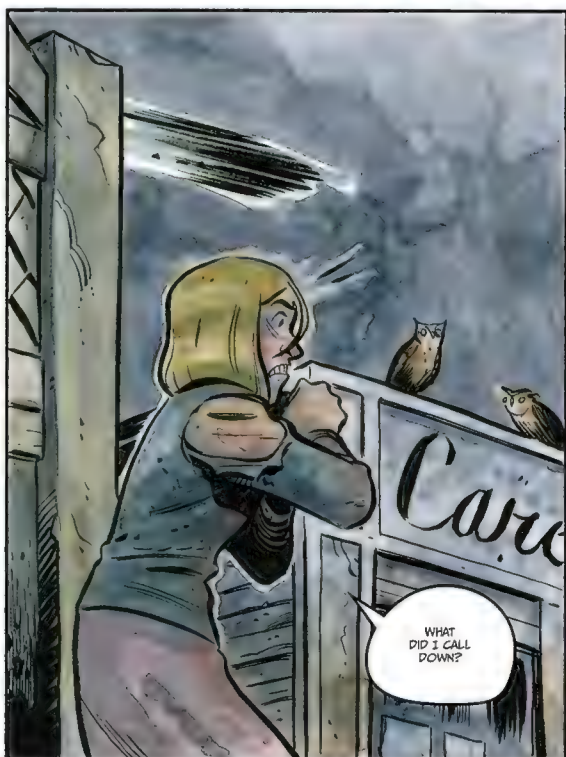
DOING SO NOW--CALLING ALL THE OWLS FROM EVERY OLD BARN AND EVERY ROTTING TREE--WAS SECOND NATURE.

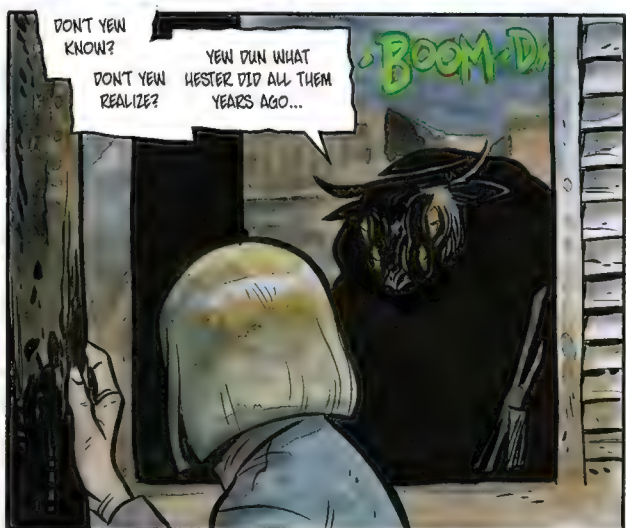


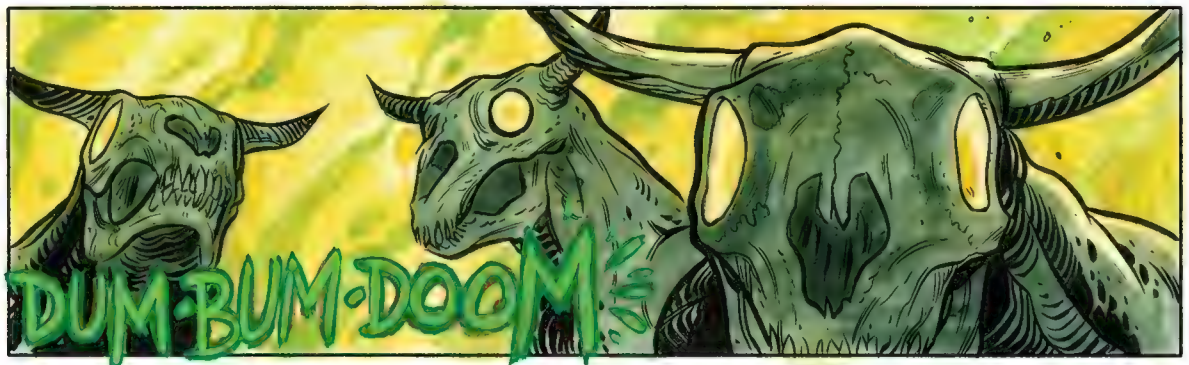
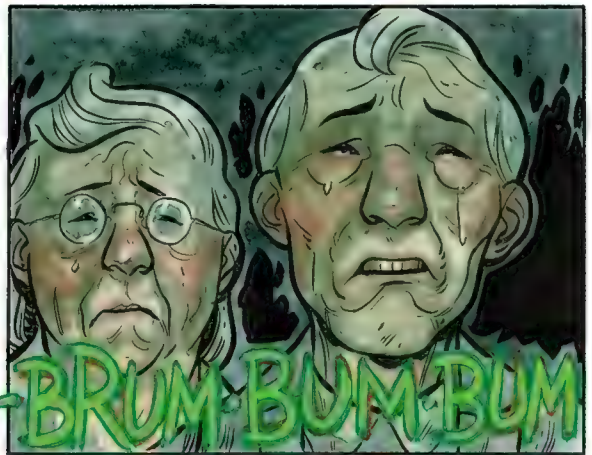
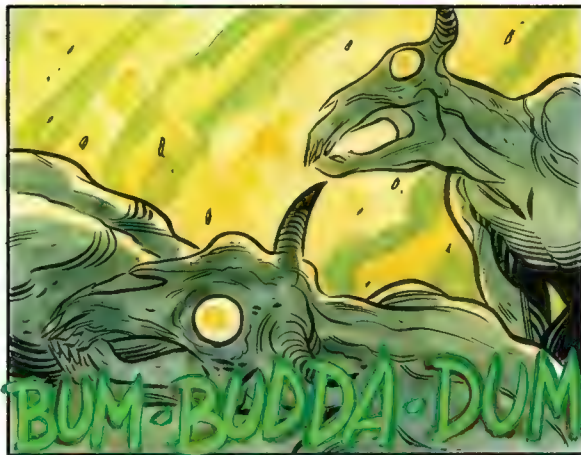
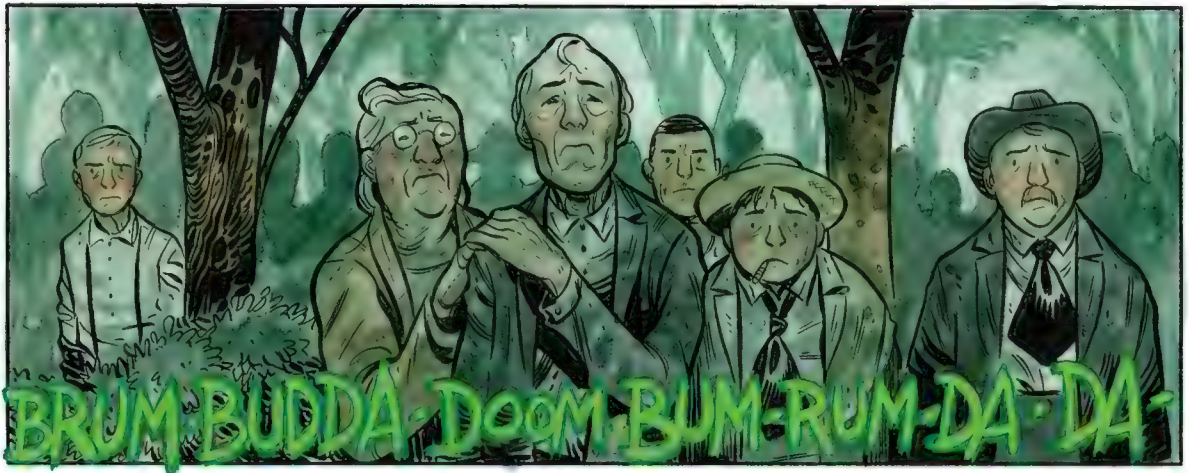
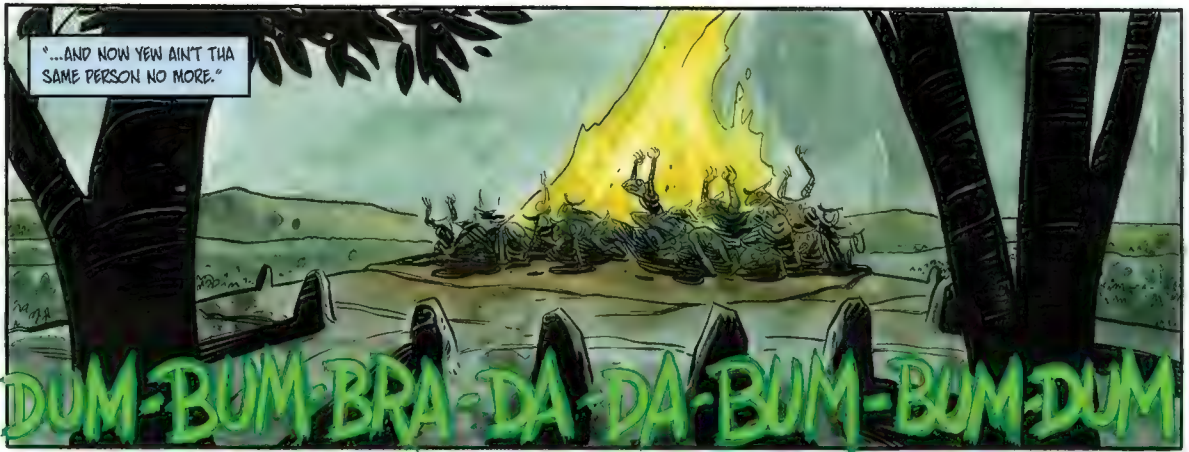
SHE SIMPLY WILLED THEM TO COME...

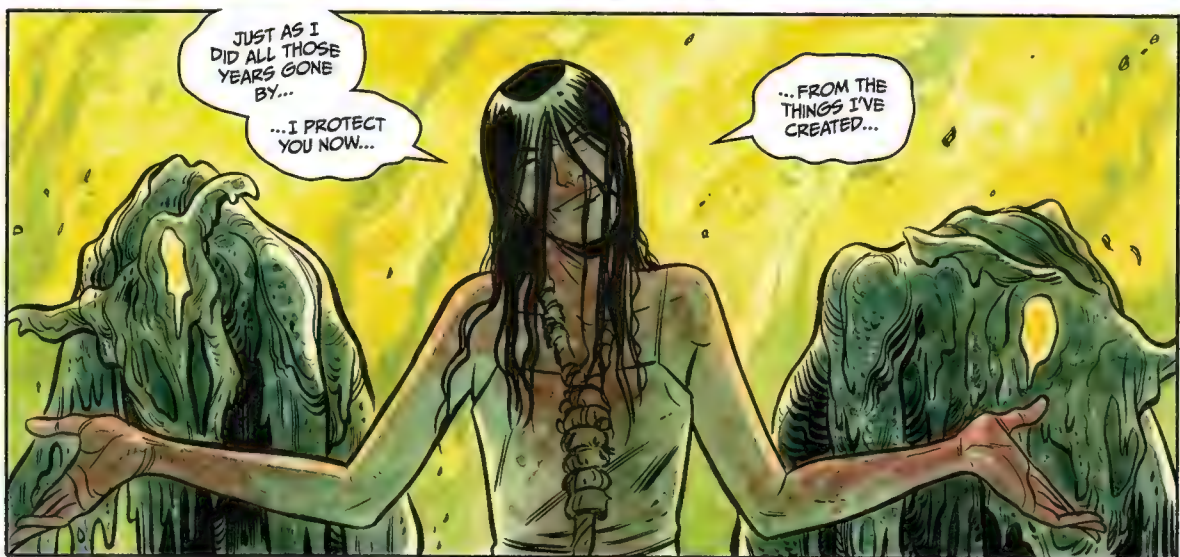
...AND THE OWLS CAME TO HER.

DOOM-BUN-DABBA-BOOM-DU





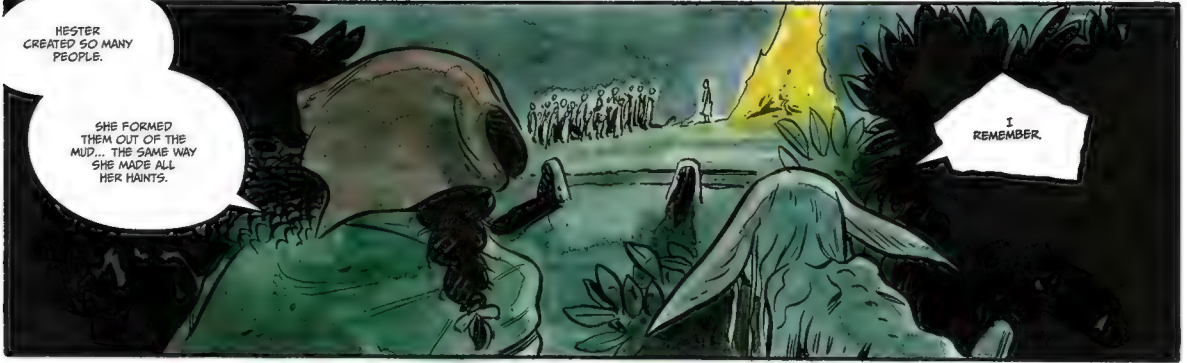






...AND FROM YOURSELVES...

LOOK AT THEM ALL.



HESTER CREATED SO MANY PEOPLE.

SHE FORMED THEM OUT OF THE MUD... THE SAME WAY SHE MADE ALL HER HAINTS.

I REMEMBER.



YOU BETRAYED ME, THOUGH, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU STRUNG ME UP FROM A TREE AND SET ME ON FIRE.

AND I CAN'T HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN, NOT AFTER I'VE WORKED SO HARD TO RETURN TO YOU.



SHE DIDN'T MAKE EVERYONE, THOUGH.

AND SHE GAVE THEM FREE WILL.

SHE'S GOING TO FIND A WAY TO CONTROL THEM... THE HAINTS AND THE FLESH AND BLOOD FOLKS ALIKE.



WE SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

WHAT ARE YOU--



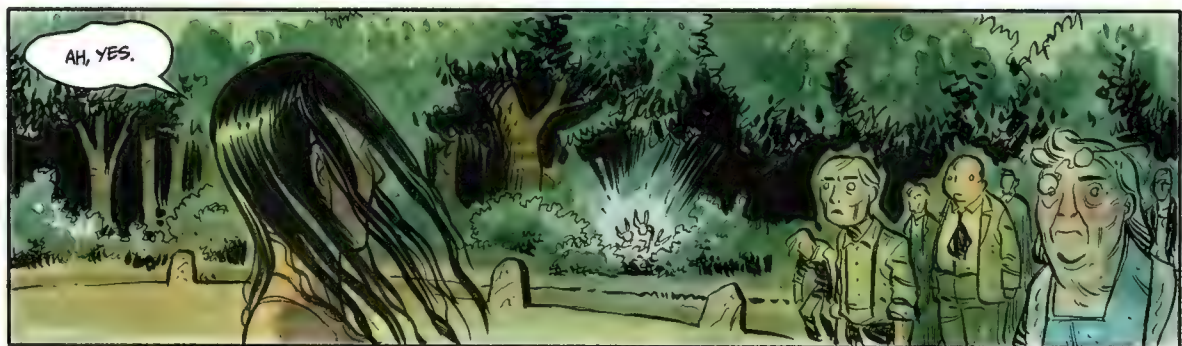
IT'S CANDLE WAX.

SSSS!











MORE
GUESTS.



EMMY'S
LITTLE
FRIEND.

HER LOYAL
LITTLE HANTS.



YOU
LET ME
GO!
RIGHT THIS
INSTANT!

RELEASE
ME OR I
SWEAR--



WE SERVED YOU RIGHT,
HESTER BECK! WE DONE
YOUR BIDDING LIKE WE
ALWAYS DONE!

NOW, LET US
TAKE OUR SISTER AND
BE ON OUR WAY!

SHE DON'T
KNOW NO BETTER,
NOT EVER SINCE SHE
GOT HERSELF
NAMED.



BUT SHE
DON'T DESERVE
NO PUNISHMENT.

LET US
TEND OUR
OWN.

ALL
RIGHT.

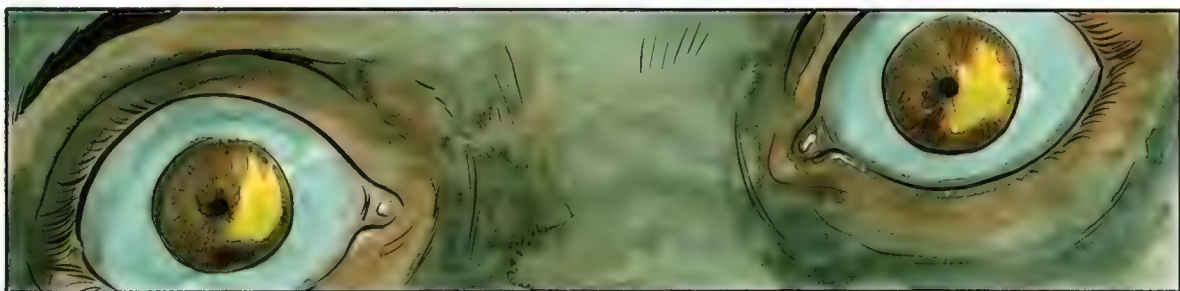
YOU CAN
BE ON YOUR
WAY.

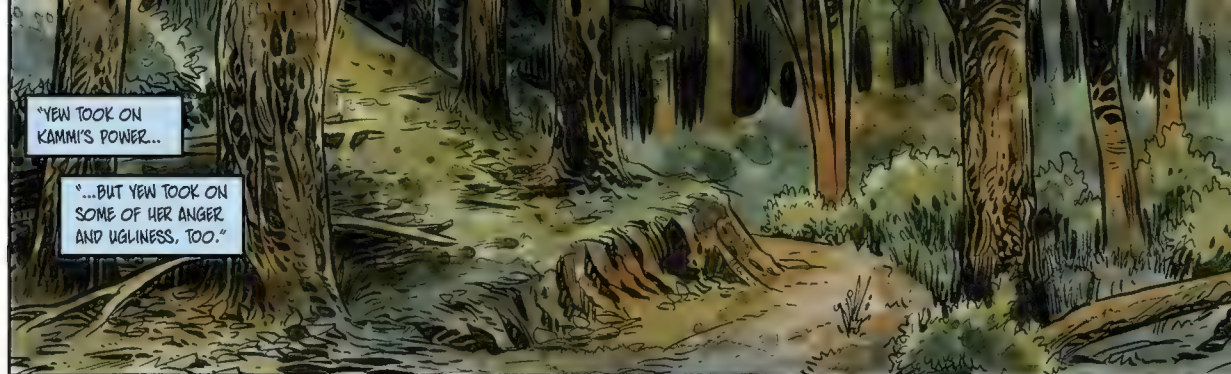


WHAT ARE
YOU--

STOP IT!

LET GO
OF ME!





"YEW TOOK ON
KAMMI'S POWER..."

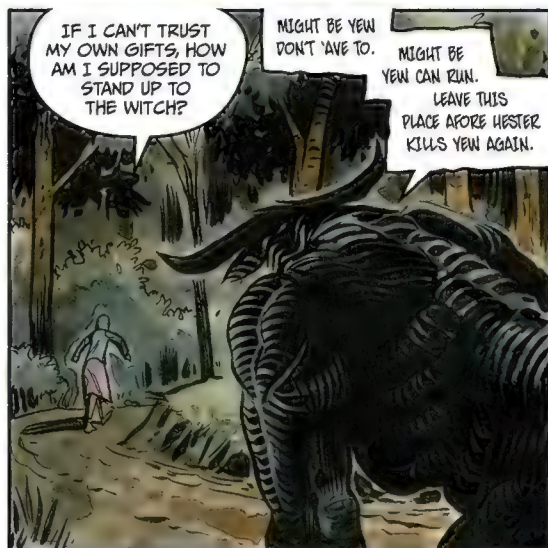
"...BUT YEW TOOK ON
SOME OF HER ANGER
AND UGLINESS, TOO."



THAT'S WHY THEM
BIRDS YEW CALLED WERE
TWISTED AN' 'ORRIBLE.
THAT WUZ KAMMI'S
INFLUENCE.

I DID WHAT
I DID BECAUSE I
KNEW I WASN'T STRONG
ENOUGH TO STOP
HESTER ON MY OWN.

BUT IT'S
BACKFIRED
ON ME.



IF I CAN'T TRUST
MY OWN GIFTS, HOW
AM I SUPPOSED TO
STAND UP TO
THE WITCH?

MIGHT BE YEW
DON'T 'AVE TO.

MIGHT BE
YEW CAN RUN.
LEAVE THIS
PLACE AFORE HESTER
KILLS YEW AGAIN.



I WON'T!

I CAN'T
DO THAT!
I'M NOT
RUNNING AWAY, NOT
AFTER EVERYTHING
THAT'S HAPPENED.



I WON'T JUST
LEAVE THE PEOPLE
OF HARROW
COUNTY.



HESTER
KNOWS
YEW.

AN' SHE KNOWS
WHUT MAKES YEW
WEAK.

INSTEAD--

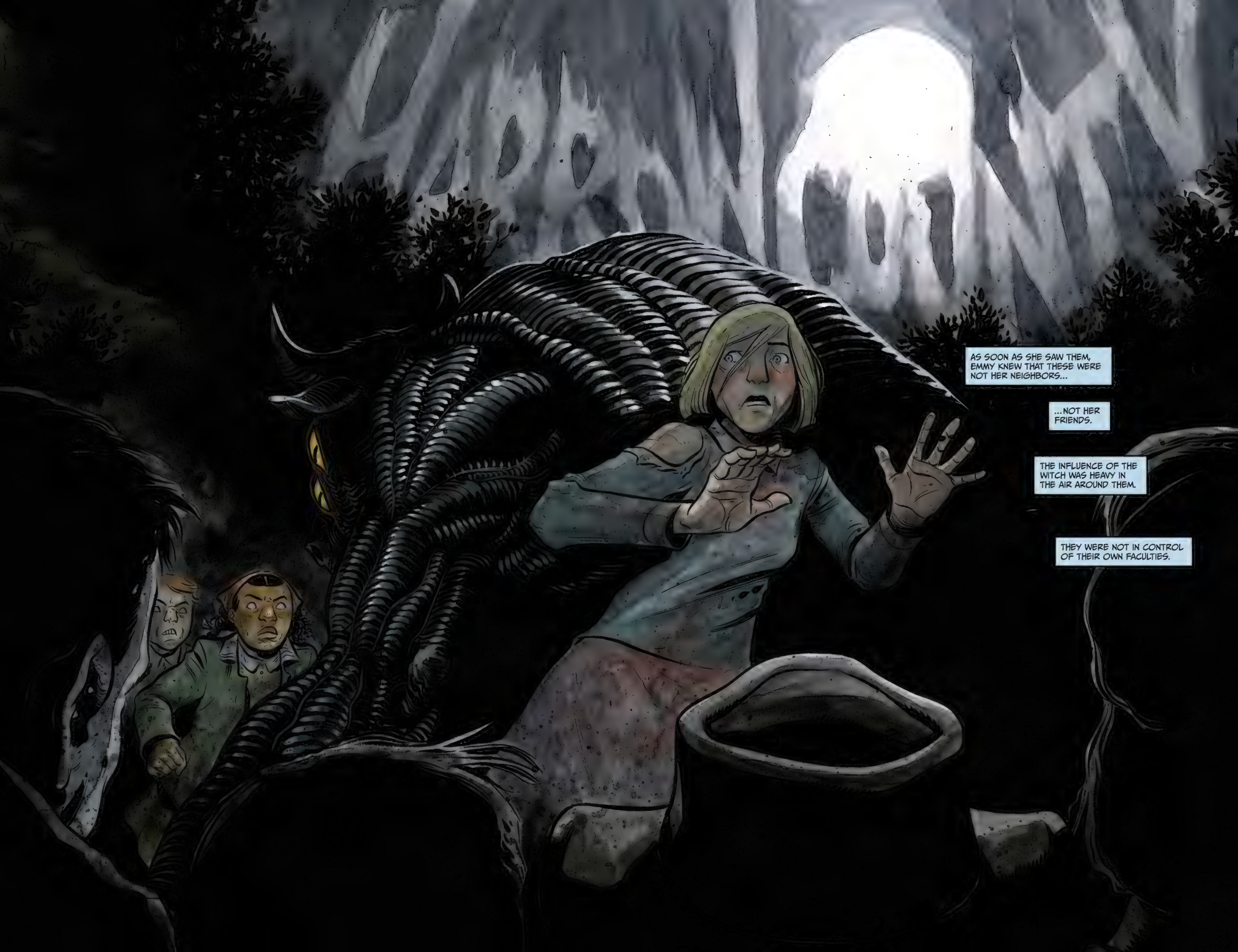
SHE'LL SEE
TO IT THA' YEW WON'T
BE PROTECTIN'
ANYONE.

--YEW'LL BE FIGHTIN'
AGAINST THEM YEW
'OLD DEAR.





THIRTY-ONE



AS SOON AS SHE SAW THEM,
EMMY KNEW THAT THESE WERE
NOT HER NEIGHBORS...

...NOT HER
FRIENDS.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE
WITCH WAS HEAVY IN
THE AIR AROUND THEM.

THEY WERE NOT IN CONTROL
OF THEIR OWN FACULTIES.



MAYBE SOME OF
THEM HATED HER.



AND SOME OF
THEM LOVED HER.



BUT ALL OF THEM
FEARED HER.



THEY WOULDN'T EVER ATTACK
HER LIKE THIS ON HER OWN.

AHH--

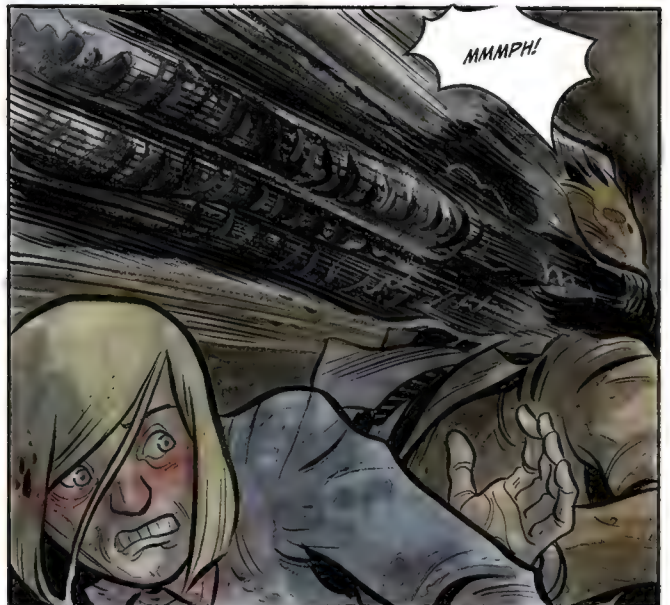


BUT HATE AND LOVE...
FEAR AND FREE WILL...



...NONE OF THAT
MATTERED NOW.

AAOW!





THEY'RE A-COMING
FOR YOU, EMMY!
HESTER'S GOT 'ER
'COOKS IN 'EM.

THEY'RE AS
GUD AS GONE.



N-NO!
DON'T!
DON'T HURT
THEM!



THEY AIM TA
KILL YEW!



YOU CAN'T
HURT THEM!

THEY CAN'T
HELP IT!

THEY'RE NOT
THEMSELVES!

THEY'RE--



BERNICE!

NO!
PLEASE!

PLEASE,
LET GO!



SHE AINT GUNNA
LISSEN TO YEW!

SHE AINT LISSENN'
TA ANNONE BUT
HESTER!



I SAID--
NO!

THEY MAY NOT
LISTEN TO ME, BUT
YOU DAMN SURE
WILL!

I'M NOT
GONNA LET
YOU HURT
THEM!

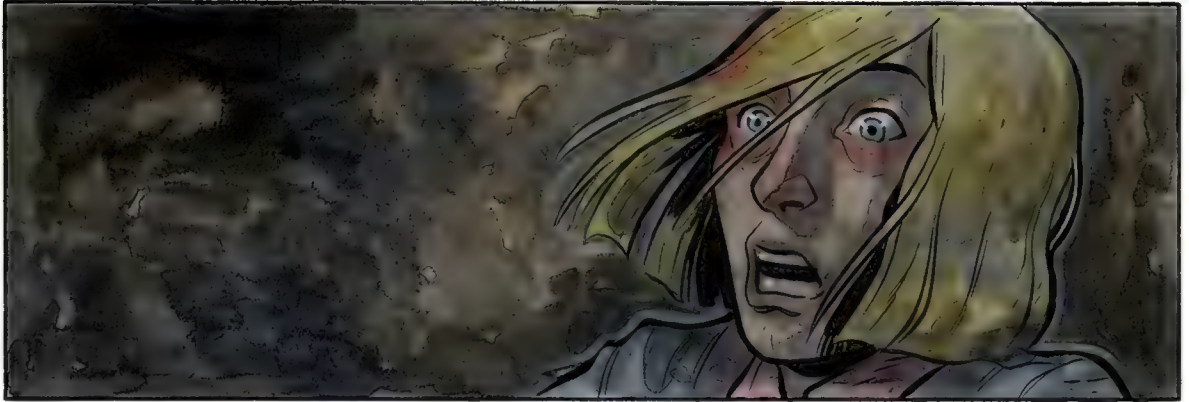
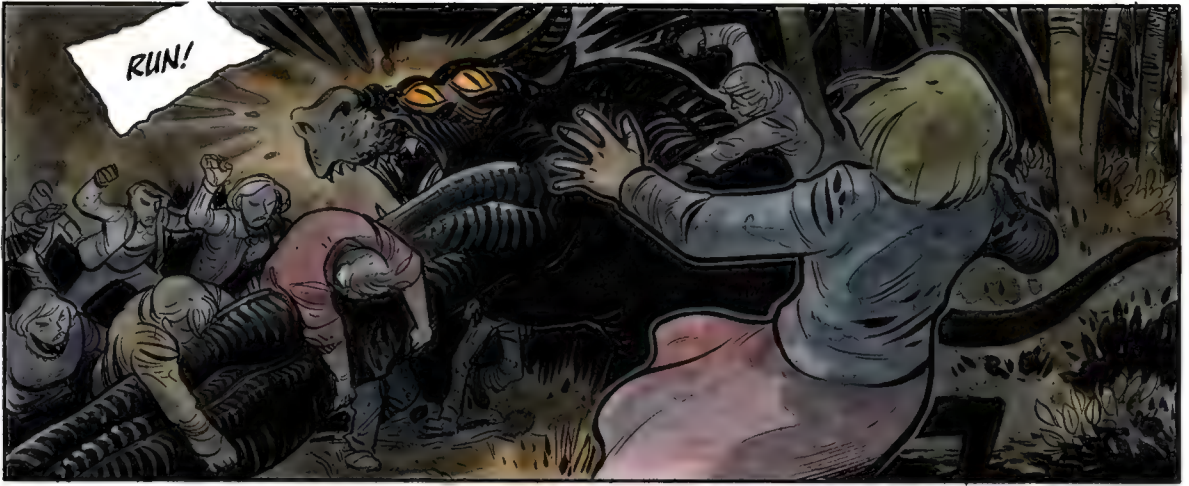


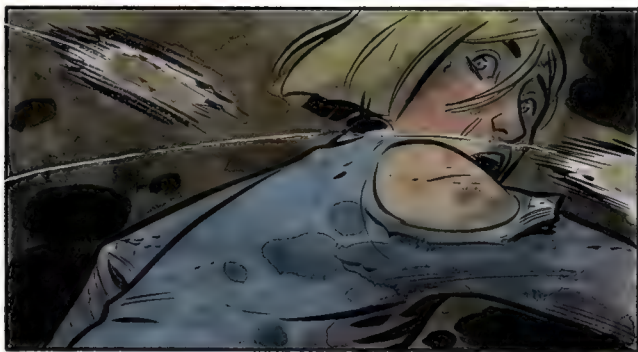
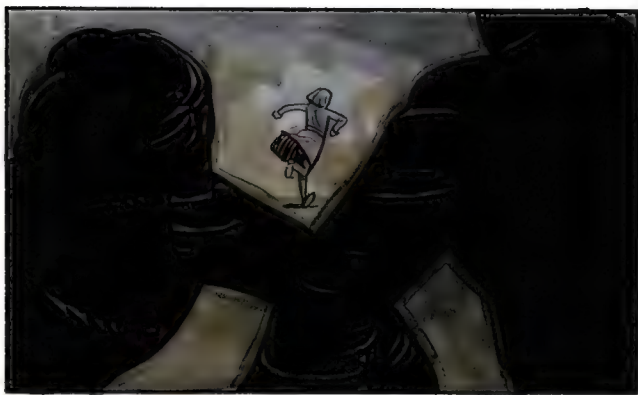
WELL,
THEN, GIRL.
YEW'D BES'
RUN.

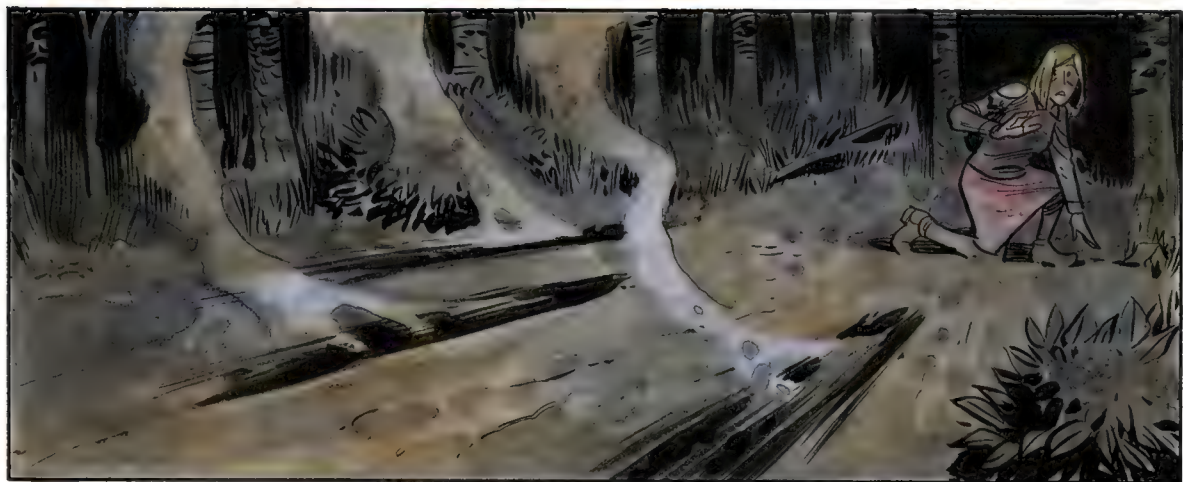
RUN AN' AH'U
HOL' 'EM BACK...



...THA BES'
AH KIN.









EMMY HAD COMMANDED
THE ABANDONED TO
DO NO HARM.



SHE HAD LEFT HIM
TO HIS FATE...



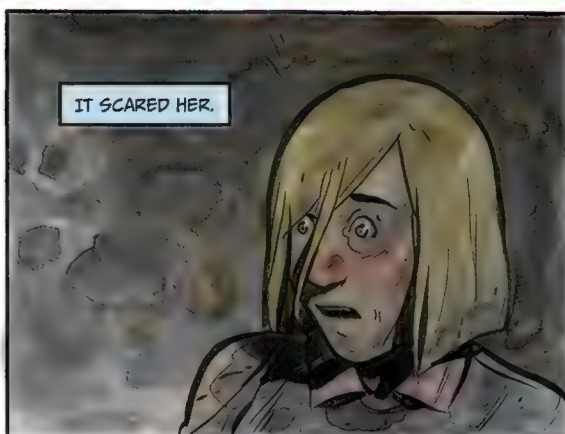
...WITHOUT THE ABILITY
TO FIGHT BACK AND
DEFEND HIMSELF.



AND YET SHE COULD
NOT HOLD HERSELF
TO THAT VERY IDEAL.



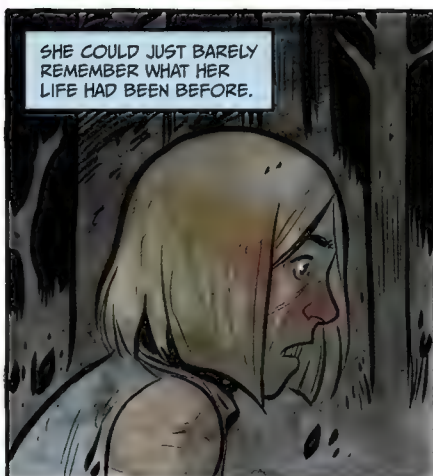
SHE HAD KILLED...
WITHOUT SO MUCH AS
A PASSING THOUGHT
ABOUT WHAT SHE
WAS DOING.



IT SCARED HER.



IT FRIGHTENED HER BECAUSE
SHE KNEW SHE WAS BECOMING
A DIFFERENT PERSON.



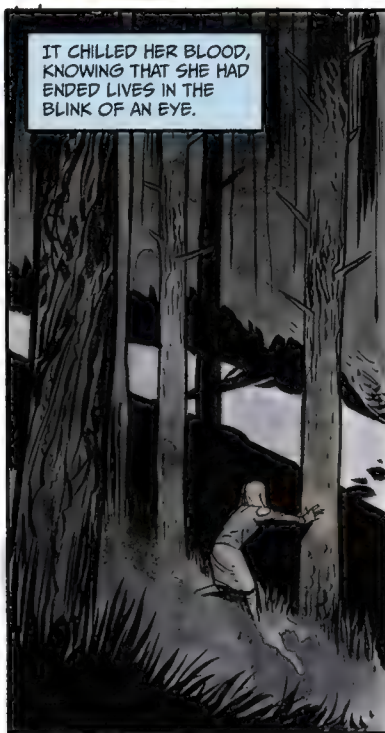
SHE COULD JUST BARELY
REMEMBER WHAT HER
LIFE HAD BEEN BEFORE.



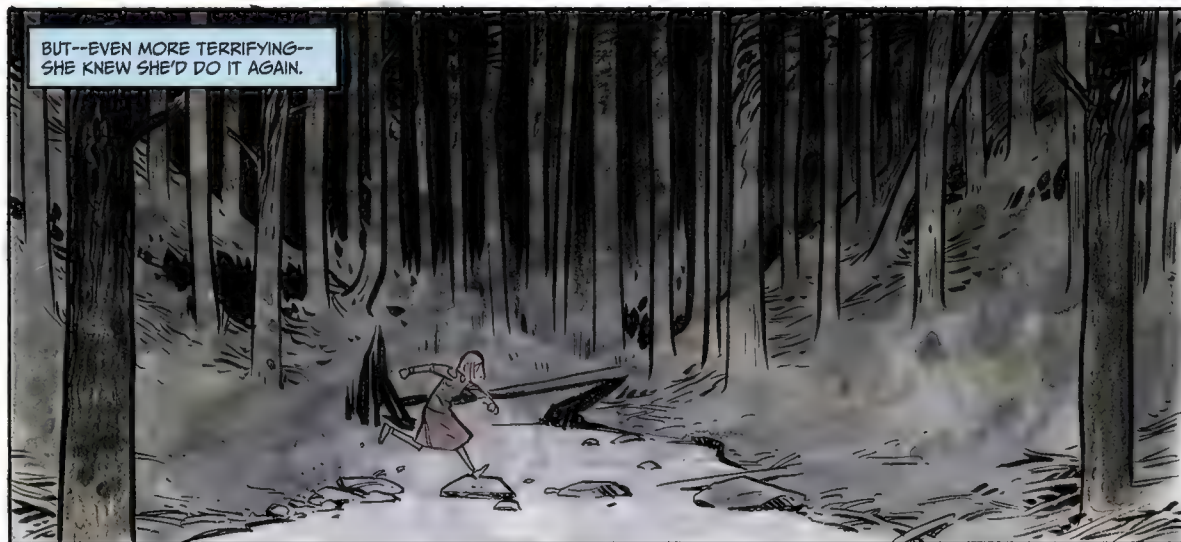
BEFORE SHE LEARNED
OF HESTER...



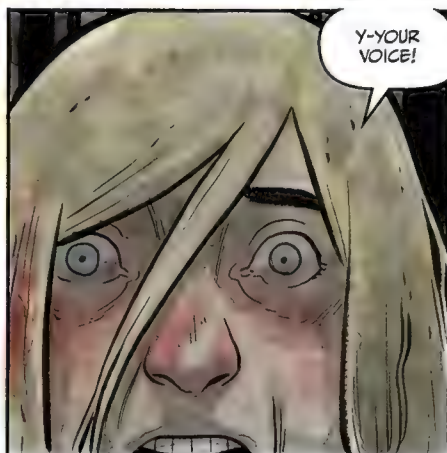
...BEFORE SHE LEARNED
OF THESE TERRIBLE
GIFTS SHE POSSESSED.



IT CHILLED HER BLOOD,
KNOWING THAT SHE HAD
ENDED LIVES IN THE
BLINK OF AN EYE.



BUT--EVEN MORE TERRIFYING--
SHE KNEW SHE'D DO IT AGAIN.





PA!

I'M HERE,
EMMY.
I'M HERE
FOR YOU.

BUT I
CAN'T STAY
LONG.



HESTER'S COME
BACK, PA!
JUST LIKE
YOU ALWAYS
FEARED!

I KNOW,
EMMY-GIRL.
I KNOW.



SHE PROMISED
SHE'D COME BACK,
DIDN'T SHE?

AS SHE WAS
HANGING FROM THAT
NOOSE, SHE SWORE
SHE'D RETURN.

"WHETHER TO TEND
OR MURDER," SHE SAID,
SHE'D REVISIT HARROW
ONE DAY.



I RECKON WE
ALWAYS REALLY KNEW
WHAT SHE'D WANT
WHEN SHE CAME
BACK.

THAT'S ONE OF
THE REASONS WE ALL
FEARED HER SO.

THAT'S ONE OF
THE REASONS EVERYONE
WAS SO AFRAID OF WHAT
YOU MIGHT BECOME.

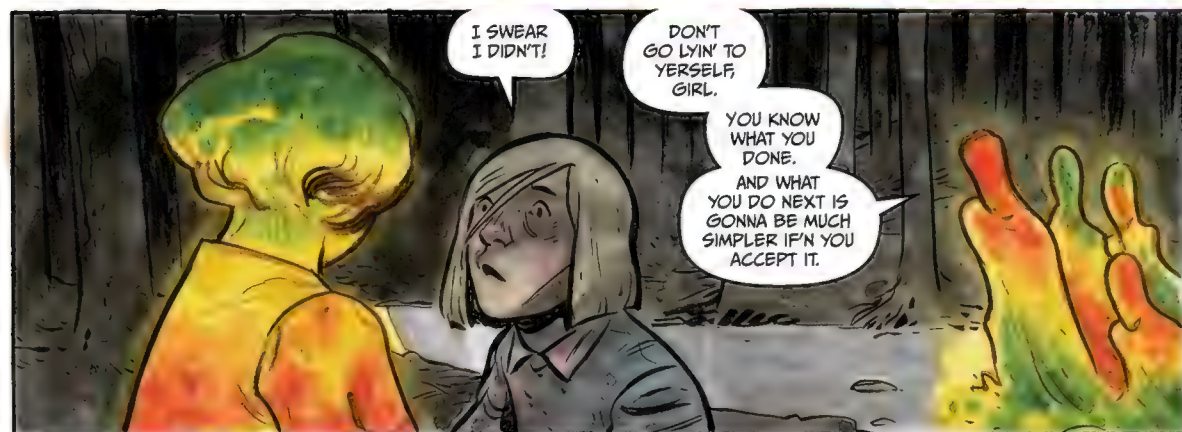
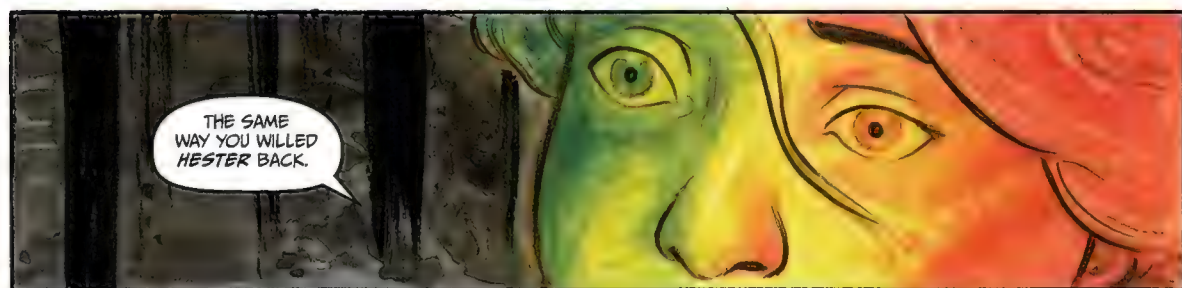


AND I RECKON
THEY WERE *RIGHT*,
WEREN'T THEY?
YOU DIDN'T
BECOME THE
WITCH.

BUT YOU
BROUGHT HER
BACK JUST THE
SAME.



WHAT!?
I...
I DIDN'T!





IT WAS YOU
WHO ROUSED
HESTER.

WHEN YOU
KILLED YOUR
SISTER.

WHEN
YOU ATE HER
FLESH.



YOU
KNEW WHEN
YOU DONE IT,
IT WEREN'T NO
SMALL THING.



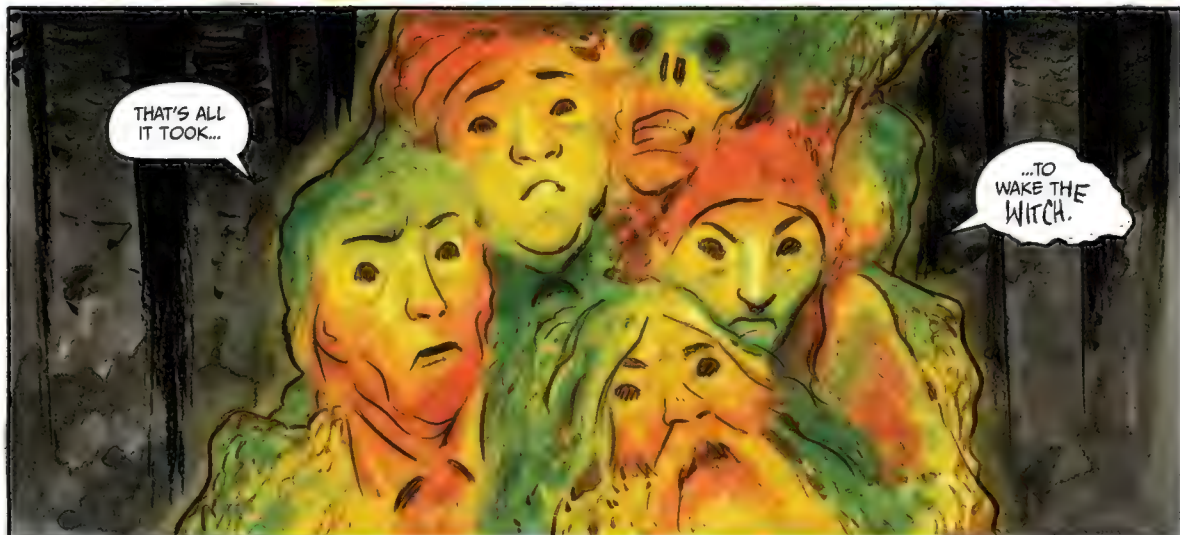
YOU THOUGHT YOU
WERE PREPARING TO
FIGHT HESTER.

YOU THOUGHT
YOU NEEDED KAMMI'S
STRENGTH ALONG WITH
YOUR OWN.

BUT WHEN YOU TASTED
YOUR SISTER'S FLESH, YOU
CEASED BEING EMMY JUST
AS MUCH AS SHE CEASED
BEING KAMMI.

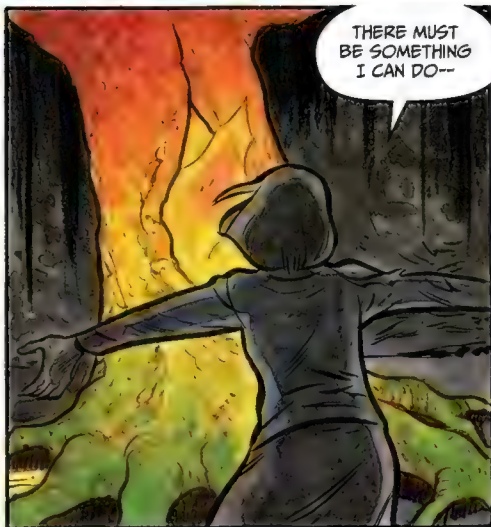


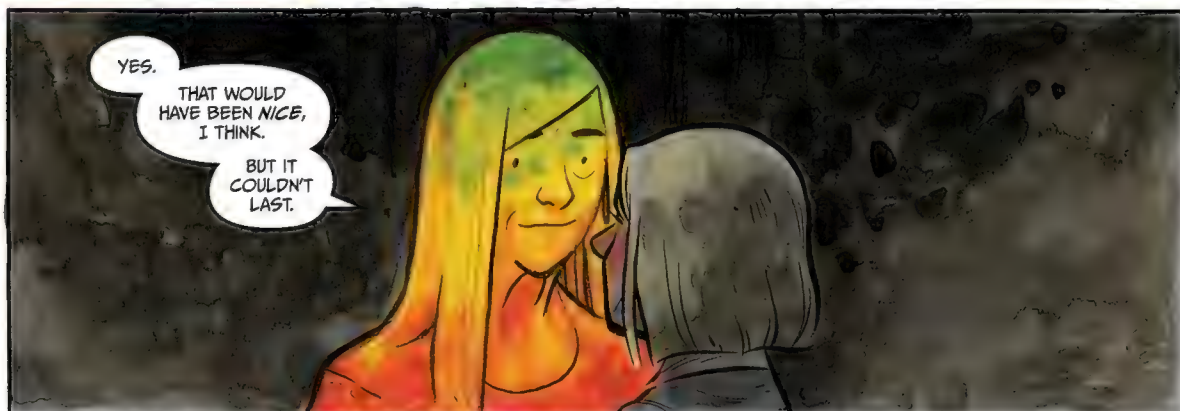
YOU
BECAME MORE
LIKE HESTER
THAN EVER
BEFORE.



THAT'S ALL
IT TOOK...

...TO
WAKE THE
WITCH.







I HAD TO.

I KNEW
HESTER WAS
COMING BACK.

I KNEW...
AND I DIDN'T
KNOW HOW
ELSE TO--



TO KILL
HER?



THAT
WILL SERVE
NOTHING.

SHE'S
BEATEN
DEATH.

EVEN IF
YOU KILL HESTER,
SHE STILL LIVES ON...
IN YOU NOW.



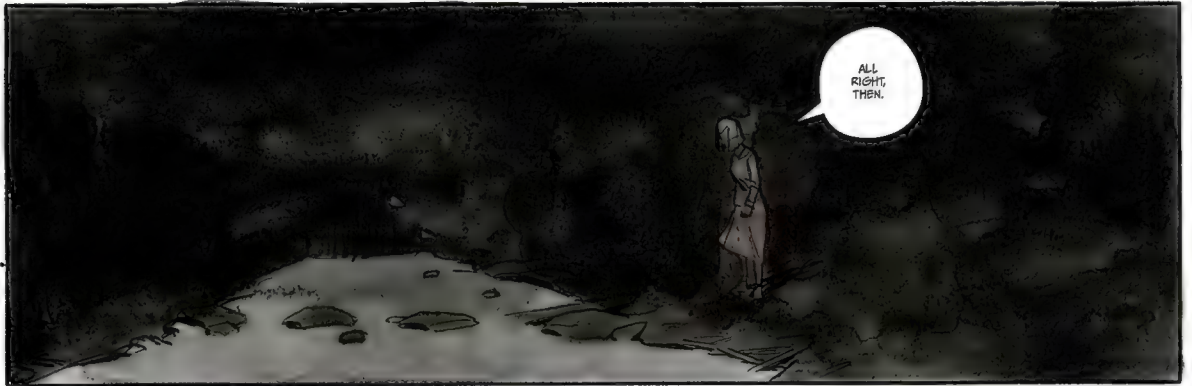
YOU CAN'T
STOP HESTER
AND BE THE SAME
AS YOU WERE.



I DON'T
WANT TO BE
WHAT I'VE
BECOME.

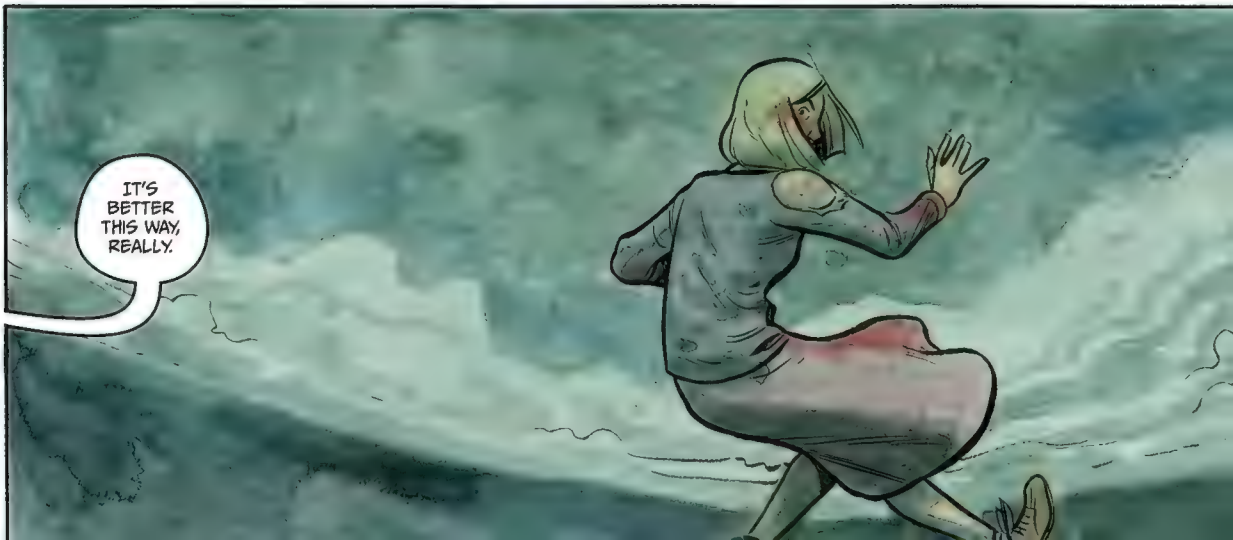
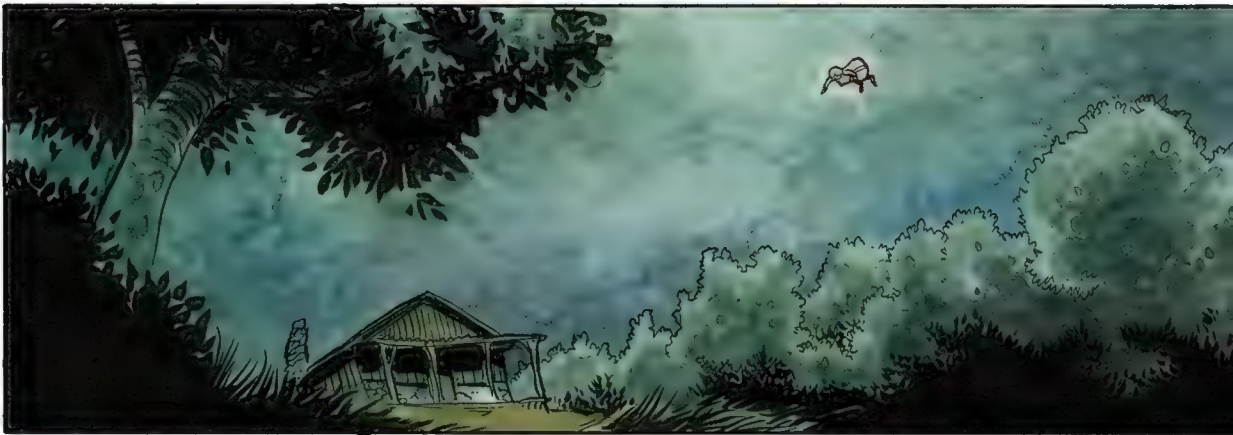
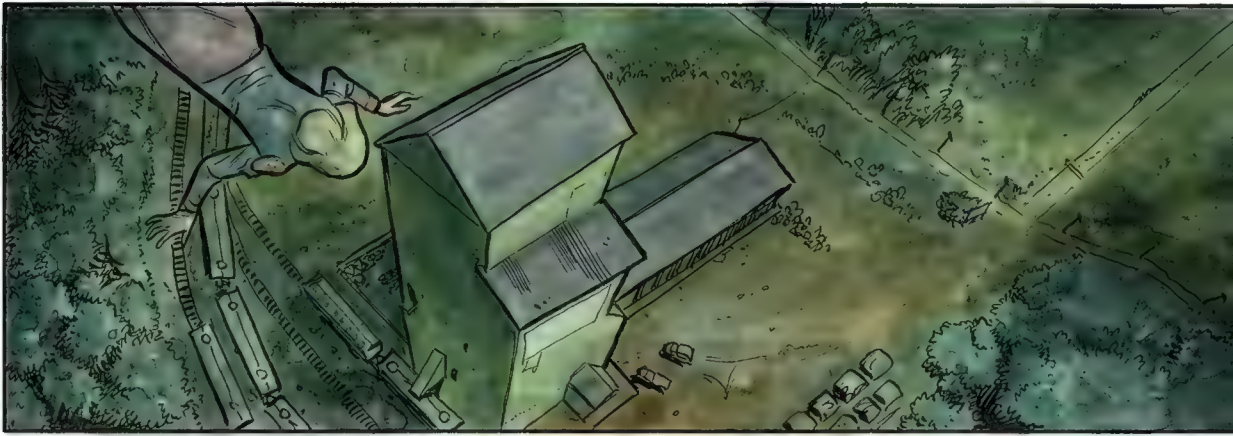


AND
THERE YOU
HAVE IT.









I'M GOING
TO GIVE YOU PEACE,
EMMY.

I'M GOING
TO END THIS.

AND I
DON'T NEED TO
BE CRUEL.

I'LL MAKE IT
QUICK FOR YOU...
BECAUSE I RESPECT
THE SACRIFICE YOU'RE
WILLING TO MAKE.





EP

THIRTY-TWO



THIS WAS THE MOMENT EMMY
HAD DREADED FOR SO LONG...

...THE MOMENT HESTER BECK WOULD
COME ONCE AGAIN TO HARROW COUNTY...

...THE MOMENT SHE
WOULD FACE THE WITCH...

...THE MOMENT SHE WOULD CAST
HER OUT ONCE AND FOR ALL...

...OR THE MOMENT SHE
WOULD DIE TRYING.



STOP YOUR
STRUGGLING, GIRL.

THERE'S NO
USE IN IT.

BUT IF YOU
CEASE THIS
FOOLISHNESS
HERE AND NOW...
I PROMISE TO END
YOU QUICKLY AND
PAINLESSLY.



N-NO.
YOU DON'T
BELONG
HERE.

NOT ANY
LONGER.
YOUR TIME
IS FINISHED.



YOU
KNOW THAT'S
NOT SO.
IF THAT
WERE THE WAY
OF THINGS...

...THEN WHY
WOULD YOU HAVE
AWAKENED ME?



WHY WOULD
YOU CALL ME
BACK?





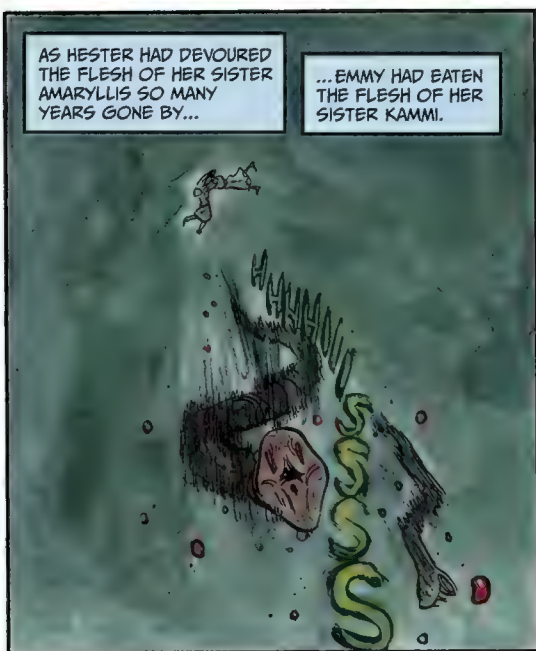
IN HER HEART, EMMY
KNEW THAT HESTER
SPOKE THE TRUTH.



SHE HAD BEEN SO FEARFUL
OF HESTER'S INEVITABLE RETURN...

NAAH!

...SHE HAD HERSELF
DONE THE UNTHINKABLE.

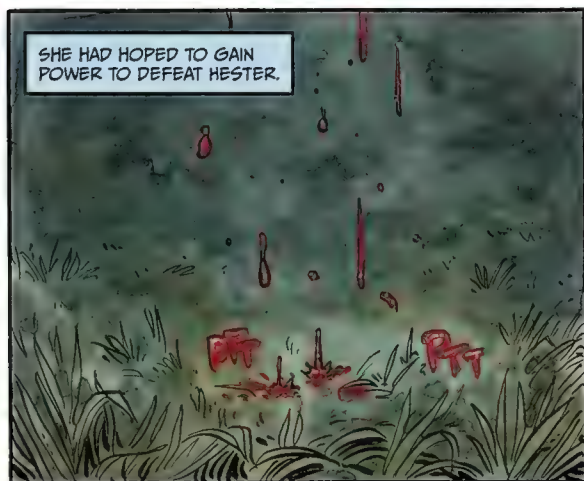


AS HESTER HAD DEVoured
THE FLESH OF HER SISTER
AMARYLLIS SO MANY
YEARS GONE BY...

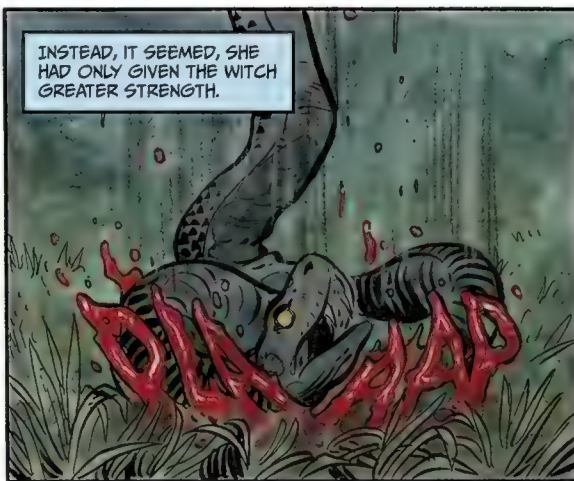
...EMMY HAD EATEN
THE FLESH OF HER
SISTER KAMMI.



HER OWN WRETCHED
ACT HAD ROUSED THE
DEAD WITCH'S SPIRIT.

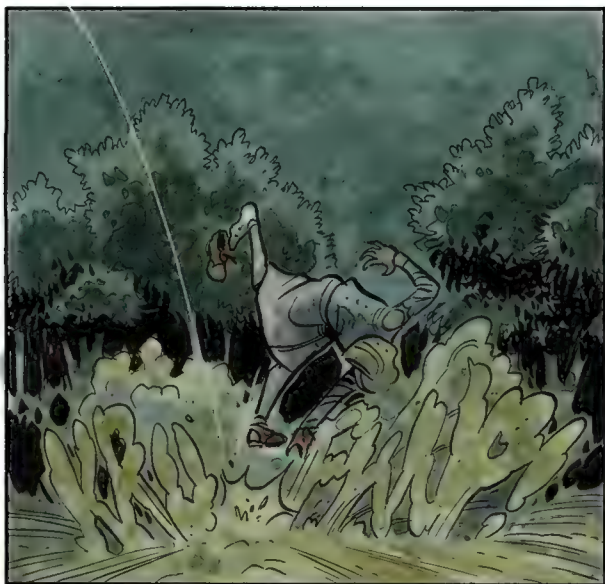


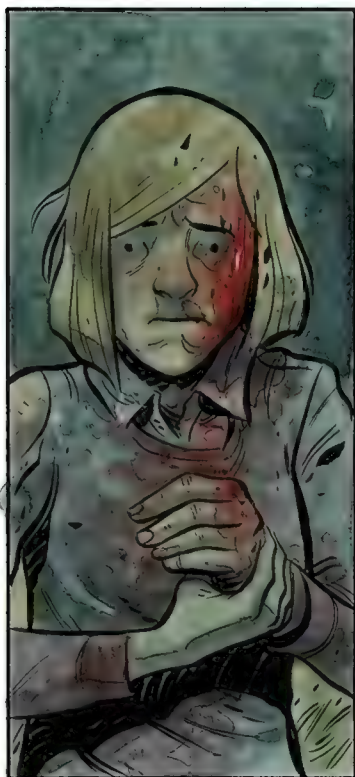
SHE HAD HOPED TO GAIN
POWER TO DEFEAT HESTER.

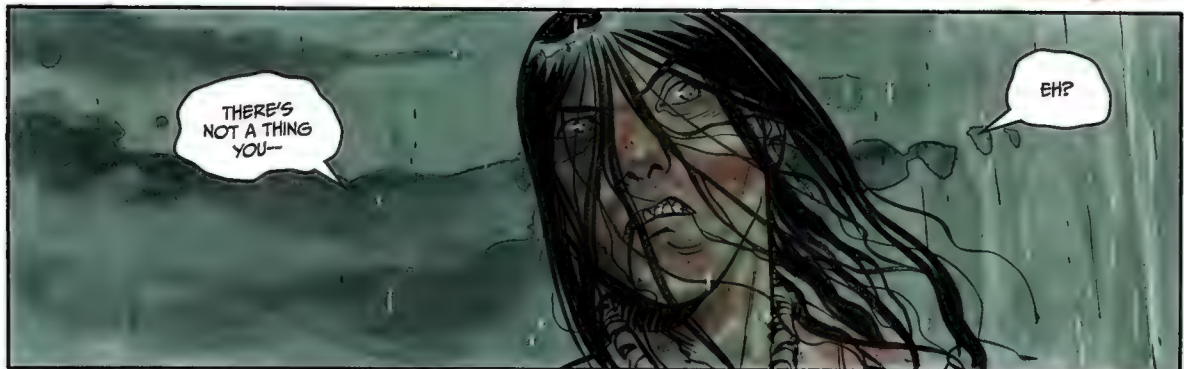


INSTEAD, IT SEEMED, SHE
HAD ONLY GIVEN THE WITCH
GREATER STRENGTH.

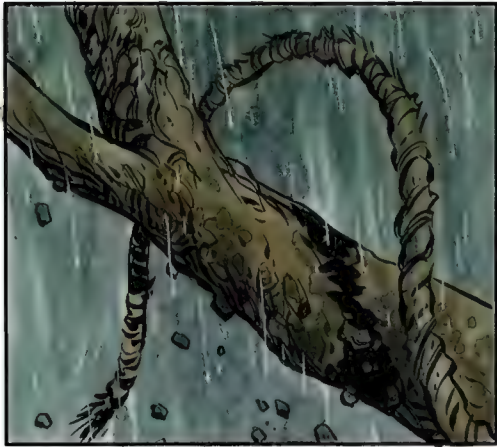






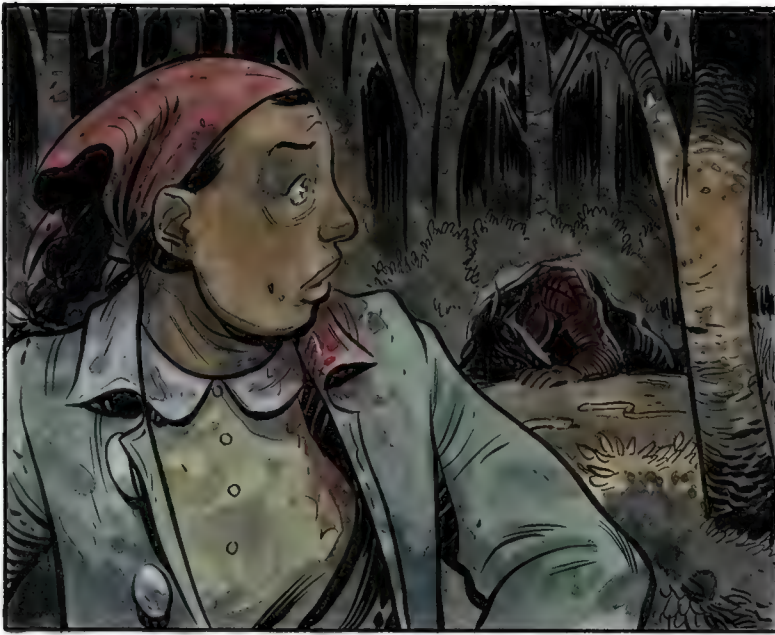


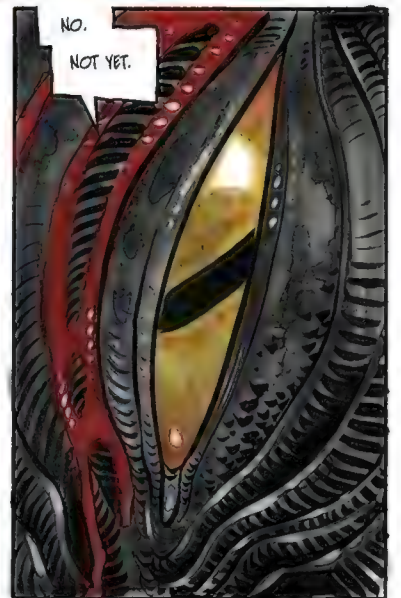
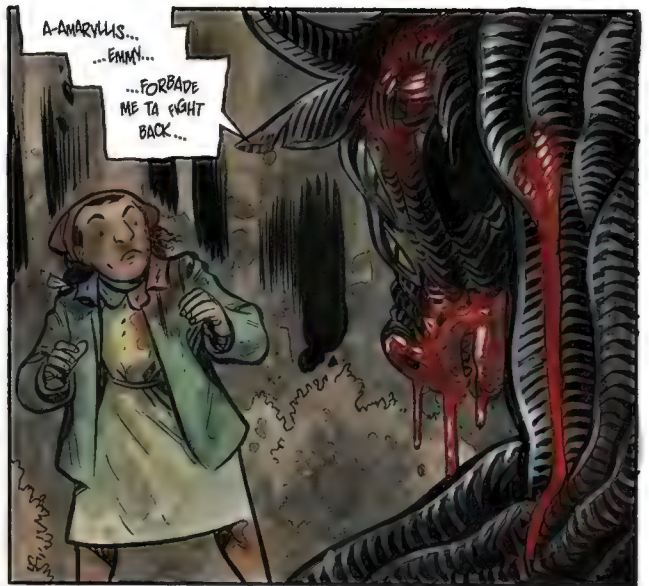












"THERE AIN'T BUT ONE WAY FER
'ER TA BE WELL AN' TRULY DONE."



I... I'M
SORRY,
HESTER.

I WISH
IT DIDN'T
HAVE TO BE
THIS WAY.



DON'T
LIE.

NOT
TO ME.
NOT TO
YOURSELF.



AMARYLLIS MIGHT
HAVE BEEN SORRY.

BUT NOT
ME. AND--NOW--
NOT YOU.

WHEN YOU
ATE YOUR SISTER'S
FLESH... YOU
BECAME
ME.



I'M NOT YOU.
I'M NOT AMARYLLIS.
I'M SICK OF
EVERYONE SAYING
I AM.

I'M ME!
I'M MYSELF!

THAT'S
ALL I EVER
WANTED.







YOU
CAN'T KILL
ME WITH MY
OWN TRICKS.

THIS WILL BE
SO MUCH EASIER FOR
YOU IF YOU SIMPLY
RELENT.

HARROW
BELONGS
TO ME.

IT
ALWAYS
HAS.



YOU HAD
YOUR TIME
HERE.
BUT THAT'S
OVER NOW.

I WANT
WHAT'S MINE.



I WANT
WHAT YOU'VE
TAKEN FROM
ME.

IN A FRANTIC ATTEMPT TO GATHER
POWER ENOUGH TO STAND AGAINST
HESTER BECK, EMMY HAD DONE
THE UNTHINKABLE.

SHE HAD CONSUMED THE
FLESH OF HER SISTER KAMMI.

IT HAD BEEN A GRAVE MISTAKE...

...PART OF A RITUAL THAT HAD
HELPED TO AWAKEN THE DEAD
WITCH'S SPIRIT.

BUT EMMY HAD TAKEN MORE
THAN KAMMI'S POWERS.

SHE HAD TAKEN ON PIECES OF HER
SISTER'S PERSONALITY AS WELL.

SHE HAD TAKEN ON
HER RUTHLESSNESS...

...HER HATRED...

...AND HER SPITEFULNESS.

PERHAPS THOSE QUALITIES WERE
KAMMI'S PERSONAL FAILINGS...

...BUT THEY GUIDED EMMY
IN THOSE FINAL MOMENTS.

KAMMI WOULD RATHER DIE THAN
LET SOMEONE TAKE WHAT SHE
BELIEVED TO BE HERS BY RIGHT.

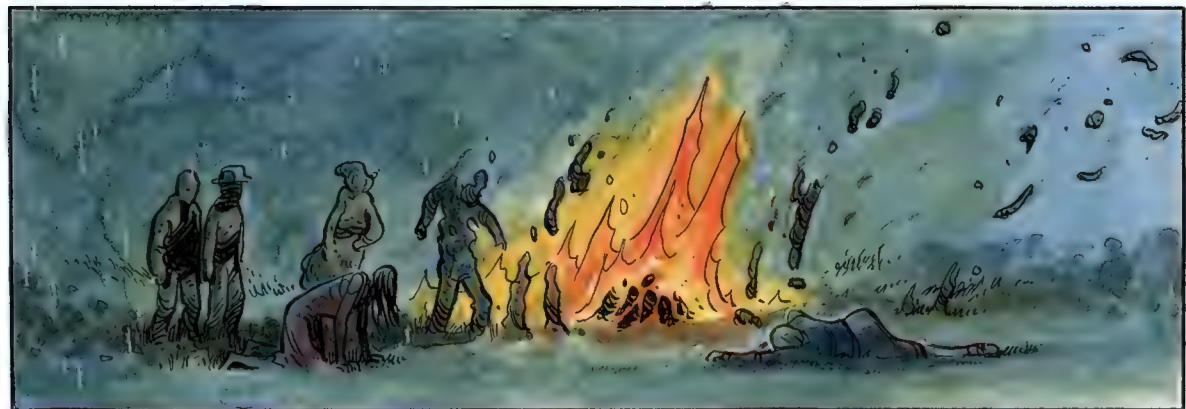
WHAT
ARE YOU~

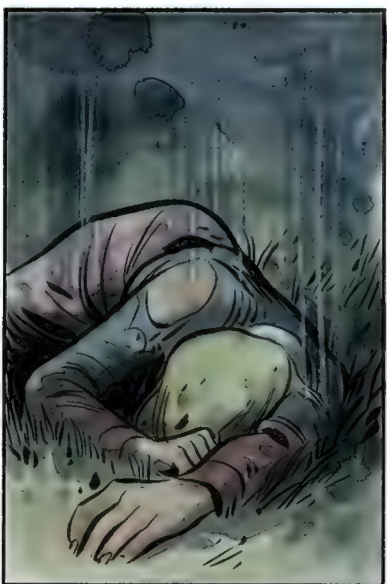
KAMMI WOULD HAVE SACRIFICED
EVERYTHING IF IT MEANT NO ONE
ELSE COULD HAVE WHAT SHE
COULD NOT.

I KNOW
WHAT YOU
WANT.

BUT I
WON'T LET
YOU HAVE
IT.

IF I
CAN'T HAVE IT...
NO ONE CAN.





THERE HAD BEEN ONLY ONE
WAY TO STOP HESTER BECK.

ONLY ONE THING THAT
WOULD KILL HER.

IN THE END, IT WAS THE SAME
THING THAT HAD CALLED HER
UP IN THE FIRST PLACE.

POWER.

POWER HAD GIVEN
THE WITCH LIFE.


!GASP!

BUT EMMY HELD ONTO THAT
POWER AS SURELY AS HESTER
HAD, MAYBE MORE SO.

EMMY HAD GIVEN UP THAT POWER,
SURRENDERED IT TO NOTHINGNESS,
ON BEHALF OF HERSELF AND HESTER.

THERE HAD BEEN NOTHING LEFT TO
SHIELD HESTER FROM THE INEVITABLE
ENCROACHMENT OF TIME AND DEATH.





EMMY DID NOT EXPECT TO
FEEL THE WAY SHE DID.

FOR SO LONG, IT SEEMED, SHE
HAD LIVED WITH THE SPECTER
OF THE WITCH LOOMING OVER HER.

EVEN BEFORE SHE HAD LEARNED
OF HER CONNECTION TO HESTER,
SHE HAD FELT HER PRESENCE.

MAYBE SHE MISTOOK IT FOR
OCCASIONAL SADNESS...

...FOR A BOUT OF WORRY OR FEAR
CREEPING UP ON HER UNBIDDEN.



AND NOW THAT SHE WAS
GONE, EMMY FELT...


...EMPTY...

...LONELY, EVEN...

...AND MORE AFRAID
THAN EVER BEFORE.

SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE
FUTURE HELD FOR HER.

AND MAYBE SHE FELT A
LITTLE EXCITED, TOO.

A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt and a pink skirt, is walking across a simple wooden bridge. The bridge has a railing and is set over a stream. The surrounding forest is dense with tall, thin trees and some larger, gnarled ones. The ground is covered in grass and small plants. The overall tone is somber and mysterious.

SHE WALKED--

--WALKED BECAUSE SHE
COULD NO LONGER FLY--

--ALONG SECLUDED
AND HAUNTED PATHS.

THE HAUNTS THAT WATCHED
HER JOURNEY NO LONGER
SAW HER AS A WITCH...

...NO LONGER SAW
HER AS A GOD.

THEY MIGHT HAVE FALLEN UPON HER
AND THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN LITTLE
SHE COULD DO TO STOP THEM.

BUT... OUT OF RESPECT FOR
WHAT SHE HAD ONCE BEEN...
THEY LET HER BE.

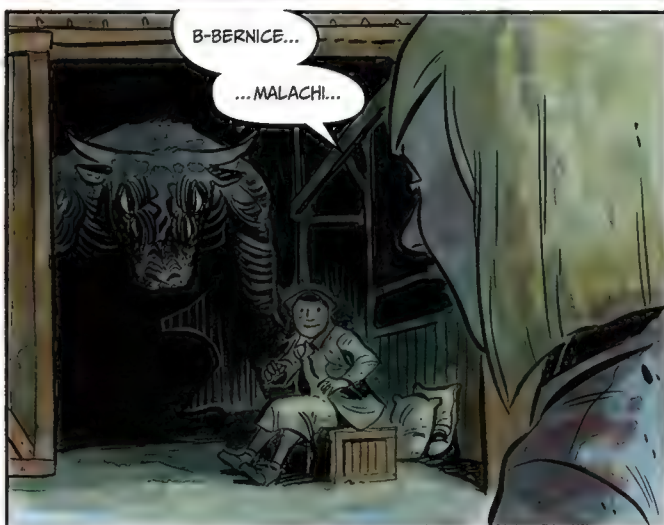


AND WHEN SHE SET FOOT
ON THE SOIL OF THE
FARM ONCE MORE...

...IT WAS AS A
NORMAL WOMAN.



OR AS NORMAL AS
SOMEONE LIKE
EMMY COULD BE.



B-BERNICE...

...MALACHI...



YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT.

THE
BOTH OF
YOU.

ALL
RIGHT.

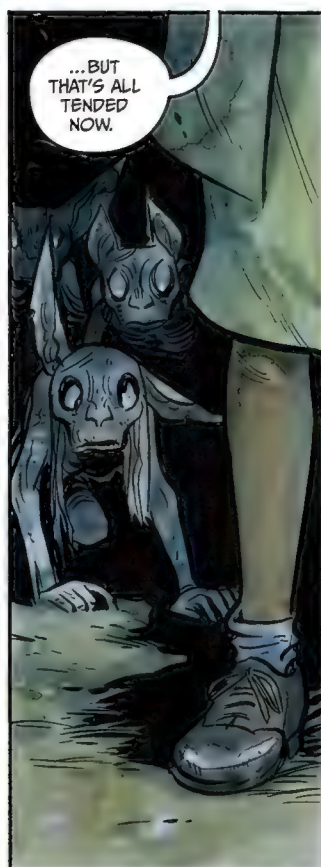


WE'VE BEEN
WAITING FOR
YOU.

I HAD
A SPOT OF
TROUBLE...

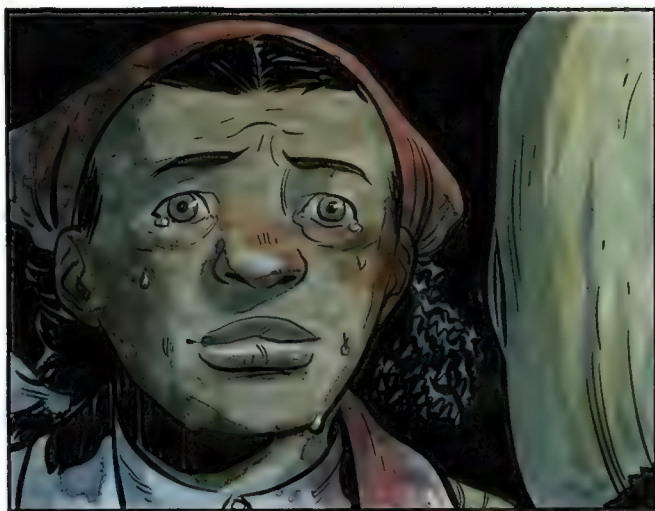
...WITH SNAKES
AND HESTER...

...WITH
SOME HAINTS
OF MY OWN...



...BUT
THAT'S ALL
TENDED
NOW.









The second half of the highly acclaimed, Eisner-nominated horror fantasy tale, collected in a value-priced omnibus.

While Emmy has been focused on dealing with supernatural threats from the outside world; a much bigger problem has been brewing at home, leading to an epic confrontation that will alter the fate of the entirety of Harrow County!

Collects issues 17–32 of *Harrow County*.

"Harrow County is easily the best horror comic on the stands."

—Bloody Disgusting

"Charming, creepy, smart, and a visual treat."

—Kurt Busiek (Astro City)

"One of the best horror comics I've ever read. Super creepy!"

—Joshua Williamson (Nailbiter)

"This is exactly what a good horror book should be: entertaining, gruesome, fun, and of course, thought-provoking."

—Comic Bastards

"Always a read that has you looking over your shoulder and keeping the lights on at night."

—SciFiPulse

"Masterfully told stories. Beautiful, disturbing, wonderful."

—Comic Spectrum

"Harrow County is a dark, beautiful, poetic comic. It's about monsters and blood and gore, yes, but it's also about family, finding our place in the world, and about responsibility."

—Adventures in Poor Taste

"Tyler Crook's art is a revelation, created with media that range from pencils to gouache."

—Outright Geekery

"Harrow County has always been excellent, and yet it has never been better than it is now. Cullen Bunn and Tyler Crook are not afraid to push their characters to the very brink and beyond."

—Multiversity Comics

"This book is damn gorgeous, with the textured and pigmented environment oscillating between sickly and welcoming."

—Bleeding Cool



DR. VINK

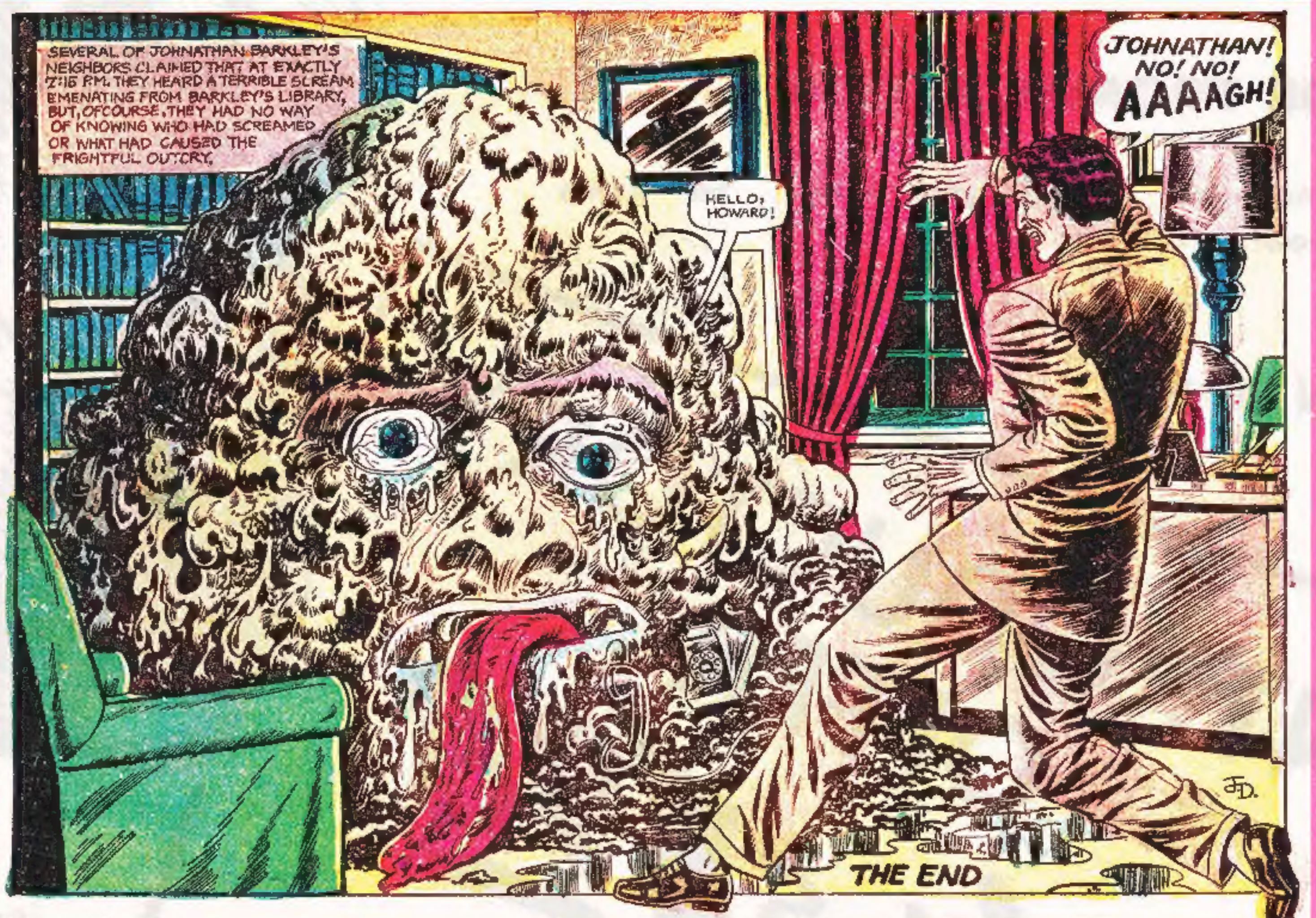
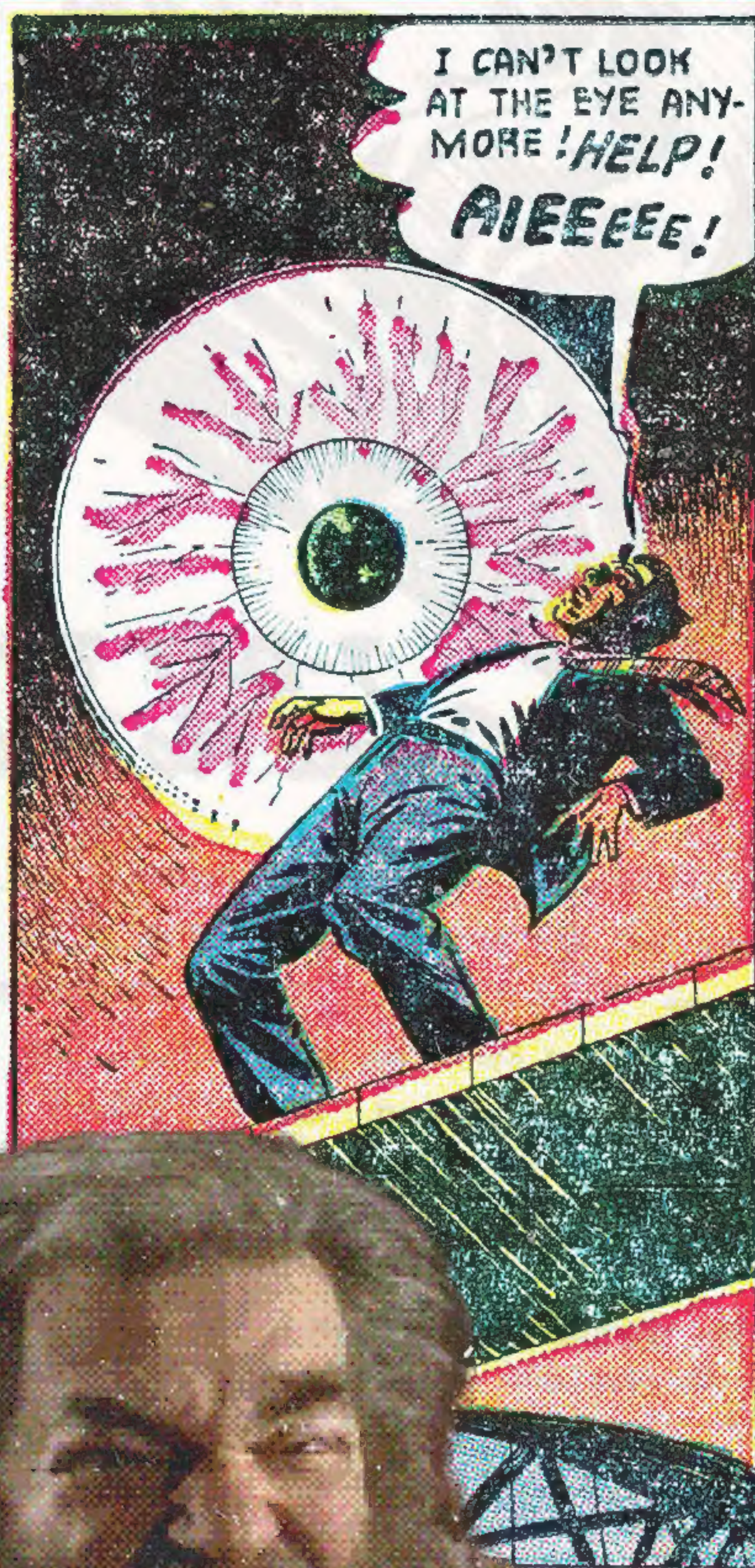
WITH A VA-VA-VA

A DR. VINK POOR MAN'S RIP

~ RIPPIN POORLY SINCE MAY 2022 ~

LIBRARY LOANS THROUGH HOOPLA + OVERDRIVE
COMIXOLOGY / AMAZON PRIME READING + KINDLE

RIPPED WITH CALIBRE DEDRM AND AI UPSCALED WITH WAIFU2X-CAFFE



...AND I AM NOT A NUT BAG



DIGITAL COMICS PRESERVATION

RIPPING
SCANNING
ARCHIVING COMICS



IF YOU LIKE IT
AND HAVE THE MEANS TO DO SO
PURCHASE A PHYSICAL COPY
HELP YOUR LOCAL COMIC BOOK SHOPS!

READ MORE COMICS